

Salvador rebels advance in cities, countryside



José Lavanderos

Liberation fighters in El Salvador's Morazán Province.

BY FRED MURPHY

"The guerrillas have made real territorial gains" in El Salvador, a U.S. official there admitted to the *Washington Post* in late December. "You have to say their offensive has been a success."

The revolutionary fighters of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) initiated one of their biggest offensives of the Salvadoran civil war last October 10.

During the first month of the military drive, the rebels routed the regime's forces from more than 20 towns in Chalatenango, Morazán, and San Miguel provinces.

When the U.S.-backed dictatorship finally regrouped and launched counterattacks in mid-November, the FMLN carried out tactical retreats with few losses. Later that month, the rebels not only retook much of the territory gained in October but also extended their operations to the country's easternmost province, La Unión. A counterattack by the regime there soon ran out of steam. On December 28 the *Washington Post* reported that, "according to a Salvadoran officer, the guerrillas are back in place across roughly the same swath of northern La Unión Province without interference from Army patrols."

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Independent truckers set January 31 tax protest

BY OSBORNE HART
AND GEORGE JOHNSON

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A national shutdown by independent truckers has been called for January 31 in response to government passage of higher federal taxes on vehicles.

More than \$5,000 per truck per year, in addition to what is paid now, was the estimate of the Independent Truckers Association (ITA) of the increased taxes on parts and road use by trucks. This is in addition to the better-known nickel-a-gallon fuel-tax hike.

"This is too much. We have to take a stand," said Mike Parkhurst, president of the ITA and editor-publisher of *Overdrive* magazine, in calling for the January 31 shutdown at a news conference here. The ITA and *Overdrive* helped lead previous owner-operator shutdowns in 1973, 1974, and 1979.

Independent truckers are squeezed by the current recession. Less freight to haul has brought about rate-cutting; and they have been hit by higher fuel costs, taxes, interest to the banks and increased competition from bigger operators, including the railroads which have been given increased authority to operate trucks.

The truckers are squeezed much like independent farmers, of whom Parkhurst said, "We have the same kinds of feelings that they have."

The national convention of the American Agriculture Movement (AAM) meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, January 7-9, approved a resolution "to coordinate efforts with the (ITA) in their proposed work stoppage."

A central AAM leader, Alvin Jenkins, said of the independent truckers' shutdown, "I think farmers and factory workers should join them, all together."

There are about 200,000 independent owner-operators. Parkhurst estimates that 100,000 of these will participate in the shutdown.

Parkhurst said at the news conference that the ITA had contacted some locals of the Teamsters union, who were sympathetic.

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Colo. farmers battle foreclosures

BY SUE ADLEY

DENVER — Five hundred people were attacked by police, sheriff's deputies, and a volunteer posse at a farm protest at the Baca County Courthouse in Springfield, Colorado, January 4.

Farmers had come from at least seven states to protest the court-ordered auction of a 320-acre wheat and milo farm near Campo. The owner, Jerry Wright, had missed two annual payments on a \$85,000 loan from the Federal Land Bank and a \$125,000 loan from the Farm Home Administration. Both government agencies administer federal loans for farmers.

Wright had earlier made payments totaling \$50,000 on the \$85,000 loan. But due to a gigantic jump in interest rates, he now owes \$86,000 even though he repaid more than half his original loan.

Wright told a rally outside the courthouse that the recession and federal government policies including the embargo on the sale of American grain to the Soviet Union has made it "totally impossible to pay my operating costs and make my land payments too. Now the bank is saying 'pay up.' I can't."

The action to protest the foreclosure was organized by the American Agriculture Movement (AAM), the national farmers organization responsible for the tractor-cades several years ago. Farmers from Baca County, located in the southeastern corner of Colorado, were among the founding leaders of the AAM and remain among its most active members.

AAM member Lon Kerr described the January 4 incident in a telephone interview with the *Militant*. "We hollered 'no sale' when the proceedings began," Kerr said. "Then the county treasurer read a description of the farm and the Federal Land Bank bid of \$96,136.12."

"At that time we had three to four farmers who wanted to bid," Kerr continued. "The sheriff told Kinan Burke that his money was no good, he couldn't bid. When the second farmer wanted to bid, the sheriff said, 'the sale is now history, you cannot bid.'"

Contrary to many media reports, the farmers were not trying to force their way

into the courthouse, Kerr said. "Instead, the sheriff's people pulled three farmers, including Burke, inside and beat them bad. Then they called the riot squad on us."

The deputies went after the other protesters with thick wooden clubs and chemical mace. "All I can smell is tear gas," Kerr said a day later.

Burke, handcuffed, escaped from the courthouse through a window after being beaten. But two farmers, Jim and Doug Goodpastor, were held for \$100,000 bail each in the Baca County Jail. Subsequently their bail was reduced to \$6,000 and they were released January 9. Charged with assaulting a police officer, the father and son are to be arraigned on January 25.

Kerr was angered by some of the news coverage of the farmers' action. "The press implies we were armed, but we didn't have any firearms or so much as a stick," he countered.

"The makeup of the sheriff's posse makes the farmers boiling mad," Kerr told the *Militant*. "They are employees of the electric company and places where we do business. The employers let them off to harass the farmers, but they want our business."

It's possible that some of the posse were given time off with pay. AAM activists are working to confirm that.

The *Denver Post* reported that among the out-of-town cops standing by to intervene against the demonstrators were officers from Stanton County, Kansas. If so, that would be illegal, Kerr noted. "Under Colorado law they couldn't even be deputized. They couldn't be used unless they were National Guard."

Ominously, the acting governor of Colorado, Nancy Dick, called Springfield to offer assistance to the sheriff.

Wright says that the auction was illegal and violated his constitutional rights. He explains that no person can be deprived of their land without due process of the law, which includes the right to a jury trial of his or her peers. He says that if a jury trial were held on whether or not he should be foreclosed for nonpayment of his loans, he would then be able to present his side of the

case. He would submit to the decision of a jury trial.

The *Denver Post*, in a January 6 editorial, attacked the AAM and Wright, for demagoguery and for seeking publicity.

The AAM "will try to stop other foreclosures," the *Post* wrote. "That will breed more publicity — and possibly more bloodshed — but it won't result in a meaningful contribution to solving the nation's farm problems."

"On the other hand, it might force an answer to this question: Is Jerry Wright a genuine victim of circumstances, or didn't he manage his farm as well as he could have? After all, not every farmer victimized by the grain embargo is facing foreclosure."

But the fact is that Wright is like thou-

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Steelworkers, miners unite to back Pa. teachers strike

BY KATHY MICKELLS

CALIFORNIA, Pa. — It isn't often that a person goes to jail in Washington County, Pennsylvania, supported by a militant rally. But Gerald Cowen, president of California Area Education Association (CEA), was so honored on January 4. He became a working-class hero as he marched defiantly to the Washington County jail to begin his sentence for contempt of court.

Cowen is refusing to carry out a court decision ordering 76 members of his local back to work. He is required to spend 12 hours a day in jail until the California area teachers return to work. The CEA has been on strike for over 74 days.

Cowen was escorted to his cell by a demonstration that expressed a spirit and size reminiscent of previous major protests in the county from the 1794 Whiskey Rebellion to labor rallies in the early 1930s. Over 1,500 supporters of the CEA showed the California School Board and the courts that their union-busting strategy will not go unanswered.

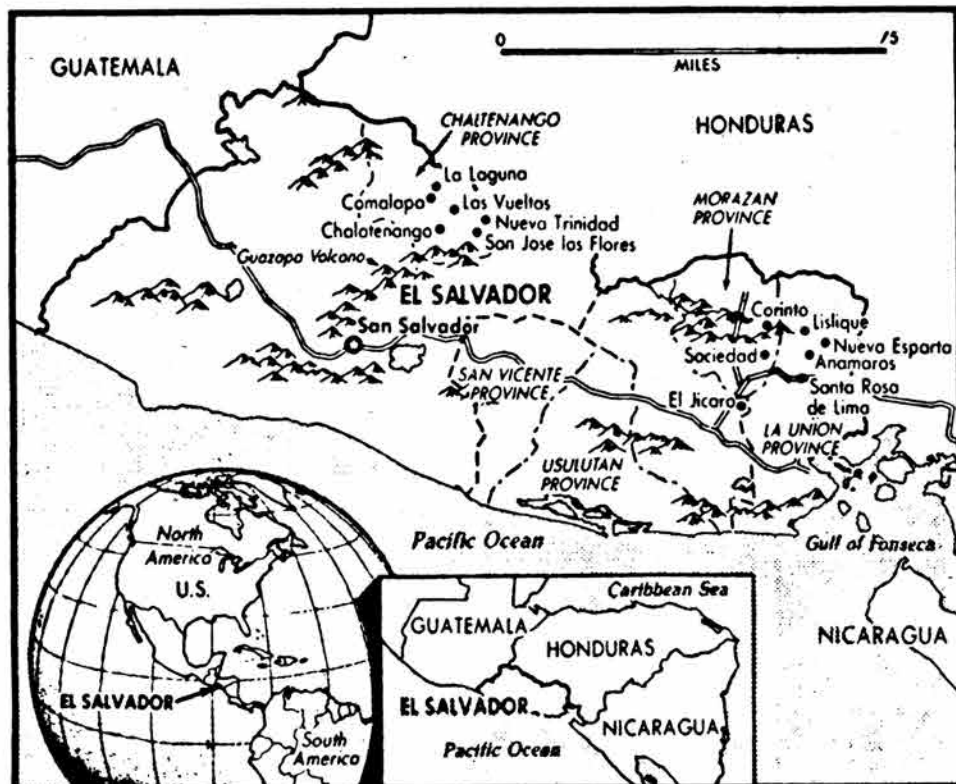
California is located in the heart of the coal fields and the Monongahela Valley steel mills. The militant traditions of the United Mine Workers (UMW) and the strength of the United Steelworkers (USW) is one reason why the teachers are confident they can turn back this attack by the local school board. When Donny Redman, president of District 5 UMW, approached the podium to extend the miners' support he was met with tumultuous and sustained applause.

"When people ask what business does the UMW and USW have in a teacher's strike," he said, "the corporations and the companies and the school boards are forcing us together. If one of us has a problem, we all have a problem. You're in a battle and the UMW will be on the picket lines with you."

He pointed to this strike as another example of the union-busting that has permeated the nation beginning with President Reagan's smashing of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization in 1981.

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Salvador rebels advance in city, country



Continued from front page

The FMLN has also maintained its long-held positions on the sides of Guazapa Volcano, just 15 miles north of the capital, San Salvador. An army attempt to dislodge the rebels from there in mid-December failed after four days of fighting.

In a December 19 broadcast, the FMLN's clandestine Radio Venceremos provided a statistical summary of the first 70 days of the offensive. The rebels inflicted 1,100 casualties (dead and wounded) on the government forces, the radio said. The FMLN seized from the army 438 rifles, 33 sidearms, and 148,428 rounds of ammunition.

Radio Venceremos also reported that 278 Salvadoran soldiers had been taken prisoner in the course of the offensive. The FMLN is careful to treat its prisoners well, and follows a policy of releasing them to the International Red Cross.

"Release of the prisoners was a public-relations coup for the guerrillas," the *Los Angeles Times* noted November 22, "as thousands of families in El Salvador listened to the rebels' clandestine radio to learn of the names of those freed."

"These freed men are more dangerous to the army than a 120-millimeter howitzer," said a professor who studies aspects of El Salvador's psychological war. "They will tell their fellow soldiers they were treated well, which will encourage more to surrender the next time they are surrounded."

While FMLN military units were dealing blows to the army, the revolutionary movement was also registering gains in the cities, where trade-union activity has

begun to revive after two and a half years of fierce antilabor repression.

The first strikes in more than a year occurred in mid-November, involving government employees, construction workers, and workers in textile plants and other factories.

The labor movement is currently functioning in "semiclandestinity," said Miguel Angel Vázquez, a leader of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers (FENASTRAS), in an interview cited in the Mexico City daily *Uno más Uno* De-

cember 10. "If we had public headquarters, they would already have been dynamited," Vázquez said. Nonetheless, Salvadoran workers "are gaining consciousness and demonstrating that not even the harshest repression can prevent the working class from mobilizing."

Along with four other union organizations, FENASTRAS belongs to the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), which politically unites all the parties and popular organizations seeking to bring down the dictatorship. These FDR member unions have formed their own coordinating body, the Trade-Union Unity Committee (CUS).

"The CUS concentrates 80 percent of the organized Salvadoran working class," said Miguel Angel Vázquez, "and encompasses all sectors of the country's production, including the strategic areas of the economy."

Vázquez pointed out that the CUS has recently been making efforts to work with some other Salvadoran labor groups that remain outside the FDR. These include the Committee of Independent Unions (CSI), and the Democratic People's Union (UPD).

The UPD's main component is the Salvadoran Communal Union (UCS), an organization of peasants and rural workers that has received considerable aid from the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD), a joint enterprise of the CIA, U.S. corporations, and the AFL-CIO bureaucracy.

Until the elections last March, the UCS and the UPD backed the military-Christian Democratic junta. In recent months, however, these groups have been taking a more independent stance.

On December 15, the CUS, CSI, and UPD announced in a joint statement that they were joining together "to defend the workers' interests, which have always been trampled upon." They put forward a platform of demands including repeal of laws that put public employees under military control, the right to organize and strike, wage increases, and a freeze on the prices of basic consumer goods.

The strains bearing down on the Salvadoran military were brought dramatically to light January 7 when Col. Sigifredo Ochoa, commander of the Cobra Battalion in Cabañas Province, rebelled against an order transferring him to a diplomatic post in Uruguay. Charging that Defense Minister Gen. José Guillermo García was a "traitor" and a "dictator," Ochoa sealed off his province and called for support from other top officers.

García retorted that Ochoa had been "corrupted by ambition and servility," but as of January 11 he had been unable to mobilize the officer corps against the rebellious colonel. The air force chief and two key infantry brigade commanders were reportedly backing Ochoa, while the commanders of the three U.S.-trained elite counterinsurgency battalions were said to be taking a neutral stance.

In commenting on the squabble, Radio Venceremos paraphrased a popular Spanish saying: "God creates them, the devil brings them together . . . and our victories divide them."

While the armed forces were paralyzed, the FMLN launched a fresh offensive. On January 9 rebel forces overran a garrison at Tejutla, a major town in Chalatenango, and began attacking other army positions between there and the capital.

Longtime SWP leader Tom Kerry dies in L.A.



Tom Kerry

Tom Kerry, a longtime leader of the Socialist Workers Party, died in a Los Angeles hospital January 8. He was 81 years old.

Kerry joined the Workers Party, forerunner of the SWP, in 1935. In the course of his nearly five decades of activity in the Marxist movement he took on many leadership assignments.

He was a leader of the party's participation in building the maritime unions from the late 1930s until the early 1950s. He was the organizer of the Los Angeles and New York locals of the SWP at different times.

From 1955 until the mid-1970s, when he retired, Kerry was a member of the Political Committee of the SWP. During that period, as part of the central leadership of the party, he assumed various responsibilities including editor of the *International Socialist Review* and National Organization Secretary.

Meetings to pay tribute to Kerry's party building work are scheduled to take place in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York.

In Los Angeles the meeting is Saturday, January 15, 7:30 p.m., at 2546 W. Pico Boulevard. Telephone: (213) 380-9460.

The San Francisco meeting is Sunday, January 16, 5:00 p.m. at the Women's Building, 3543 18th St.

In New York the meeting is Wednesday, January 19, 7:30 p.m. at 79 Leonard St., Manhattan. Telephone (212) 226-8445.

Jack Barnes, national secretary of the SWP, will speak at all three meetings along with others who knew and worked with Kerry over the years. For further information see the SWP headquarters listed in the directory on page 17.

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Militant/Lou Howort
Sign reads: "We don't want a Vietnam in Central America."

Salvador solidarity activists organize for Jan. 22 protests

BY SETH GALINSKY

LOS ANGELES — Plans for the January 22 Mexico-U.S. border actions against U.S. intervention in Central America are under way in several cities along the West Coast. This demonstration was called by the first Mexico-U.S. Border Conference in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador as part of an international day of solidarity called by the World Front in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador.

In San Francisco, San Jose, Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix, and other cities, coalitions are organizing car caravans and buses to converge on the San Ysidro-Tijuana border.

The central slogans of the border actions

are "March against U.S. intervention in Central America"; "No draft, no war, U.S. out of El Salvador"; "U.S. out of Guatemala"; "Stop the secret war against Nicaragua"; and "Oppose Reagan's human rights certification for the murderous Salvadoran regime."

Participants from Arizona and California will arrive in San Diego by 12 noon on January 22. They will leave from Balboa Park (at Park Boulevard and President's Way) at 1 p.m., passing through downtown San Diego and Chula Vista (a Chicano working-class neighborhood) on their way to San Ysidro. At 2 p.m. they will meet at the sports field and then march through downtown San Ysidro to the border.

Significant support has been won in San Diego for the demonstration. The Chicano Federation, the main Chicano social welfare agency in San Diego with strong ties to hundreds of activists in the city, has endorsed the demonstration, is participating in the coalition, and has donated money to help out. Hundreds of posters have been distributed throughout the city at factories and in working-class communities.

In Los Angeles, the January 22 Solidarity Coalition is planning a support rally on Friday, January 21, at 7 p.m. at Channing Hall. There will be music, theatre, poetry, and speeches. Those continuing on to the border will meet at 8:30 a.m. the next day at the Methodist Church parking lot. The January 22 Solidarity Coalition includes Casa El Salvador, Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador, Federation for Progress, Casa Nicaragua, Committees of Solidarity with Central America, and the Young Socialist Alliance. Raoul Teillet, president of the California Federation of Teachers, and other union officials have also endorsed the action. More information and bus tickets are available in Los Angeles by calling (213) 480-9567 or 380-9460.

Three buses are coming to the border actions from San Jose, Oakland, and San Francisco. A benefit fiesta at the Club Elegante in San Francisco is being organized for the evening of January 20 to raise money for the car caravan and demonstration.

Several of the Los Angeles chapters of MEChA, the Chicano student group, are also planning rallies to promote the border actions on January 22.

In Phoenix, the Coalition Against U.S. Aggression is planning a send-off rally to publicize the border march and then will also caravan down to the border to join in the protest. For more information call (619) 292-0912.

Steelworkers, miners back teachers

Continued from front page

The unions need to meet this attack with combined forces, Redman said. Giving a bit of advice on how to conduct a strike, "since the UMW has quite a bit of experience," he said, "you need to take off the nail polish and learn a few words that aren't in the dictionary." This was met with applause, laughter, and shouts of "yeah, scabs."

Speaker after speaker spoke to the union-busting character of this strike. The California School Board is asking for 66 givebacks — from wages and health benefits to the censorship of the faculty bulletin board. A major stumbling block in the negotiations has been over a "no-layoff" clause contained in the teachers' current contract.

As Jacques Angles, president of the Pennsylvania State Education Association, put it, "How can you give when it's taken us 100 years striving to get what we have not gotten. It's a case of union busting."

From the teachers on strike to teachers from surrounding communities, coal miners, auto workers, electrical workers, and parents and students, the determination to fight this broadside attack is great.

Andrew "Lefty" Palm, director of District 15 USW, stated, "The people of this country have nothing else but our unions — our labor unions. And we're going to take them on."

Everyone agreed that the "them" wasn't just the local school board, but the companies, President Reagan, and Pennsylvania's Gov. Richard Thornburgh.

"I don't know why California was chosen for a strike like this," said Cowen.

"There are some people up there trying to break Act 195 [legislation that gives public employees the right to strike]."

The local media, the school board, and the Thornburgh administration are trying to diminish the support the teachers have received from parents and students. As the strike continues, the state administration is threatening to decrease funding. It is also warning students that unless the strike ends soon they will not be able to meet the necessary requirements to complete the school year.

Even as the deadline approaches, students and parents continue to support the teachers. Students and many parents have regularly participated on the picket lines.

Since the January 4 rally, the school board has gone to Harrisburg requesting the governor to establish a fact-finding team. If he does so, a 40-day cooling off period will be ordered. At this time, Thornburgh has appointed the chief mediator for the state to participate in the negotiations.

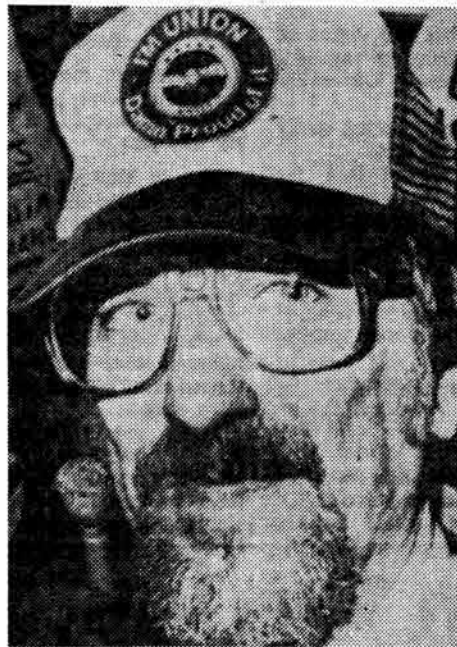
No matter what the school board and the state decide to do, they are confronting a united response by working people. And they know it.

Oliver Hormell, solicitor for the California School Board, said as much after the rally. "We can't have a situation where nine school directors take on the three most powerful unions in the United States."

These 76 teachers are joining hands with the Chrysler workers, who refused to accept the auto company's contract; the steelworkers, who said no to a concessions contract; and the miners, who threw out Sam Church and elected Rich Trumka as UMW president.

From the militant rally to the nightly vigils at the county jail, to the picket lines, these teachers are determined to win.

Kathy Mickells is a member of the UMW in Kirby, Pennsylvania.



Jailed teachers' leader Gerald Cowen.

AAM leader hails farm action

BY VAL LIBBY

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — In an interview with the *Militant* at the American Agriculture Movement's national convention here January 7-9, Alvin Jenkins explained the significance of the farm protest in Springfield, Colorado. Jenkins, a national leader of AAM, is from Campo, Colorado.

He said, "They can't take our property without due process, without a jury trial. That's what the constitution says. What we're doing now with farm foreclosures is just like what the Blacks did awhile back."

They were always told to move to the back of the bus. Then they said, 'no!' and were clubbed, tear gassed, and killed. But they just kept piling on front and went to raising hell. It was only then that the politicians said, 'Hey they're right. It's not in the constitution that Blacks have to sit in the back.' They won something."

Referring to the foreclosure auction of Jerry Wright's farm, Jenkins said, "We're saying you must give this man a fair trial. . . . There will be other auctions and next time there'll be 5,000 of us, not just 400 to 500."

Farmers battle foreclosures

Continued from front page

sands of other farmers throughout the country who've been squeezed by high production costs and skyrocketing interest rates on the one hand and low prices for their crops on the other. The number of foreclosures has been mounting and farmer protests to stop them have been increasing and getting more militant.

Kerr told the *Militant*, "We're asking all people in the United States to support the AAM. Get hold of senators, congressmen,

the Department of Agriculture. We want the full support of all Teamsters, independent [truck drivers], coal miners, all organizations that will be nonviolent. If they get together with us it will help them too. We are being picked on now because we are a minority. But they could be next."

A defense fund has been set up to help raise money and support for Wright's fight, including the defense of the Goodpastors, and for other foreclosure fights. Contributions can be sent to: Defense Fund, P.O. Box 130, Campo, Colorado 81029.

Truckers call Jan. 31 tax protest

Continued from front page

ic to the shutdown call, and that he hoped the top leaders of the union would support it.

The Trucking Management Inc., which negotiates for the big truck owners the Master Freight Agreement with 243,000 Teamsters, took advantage of the federal tax increase to call for wage and working-conditions' concessions, in addition to those made by the union last spring.

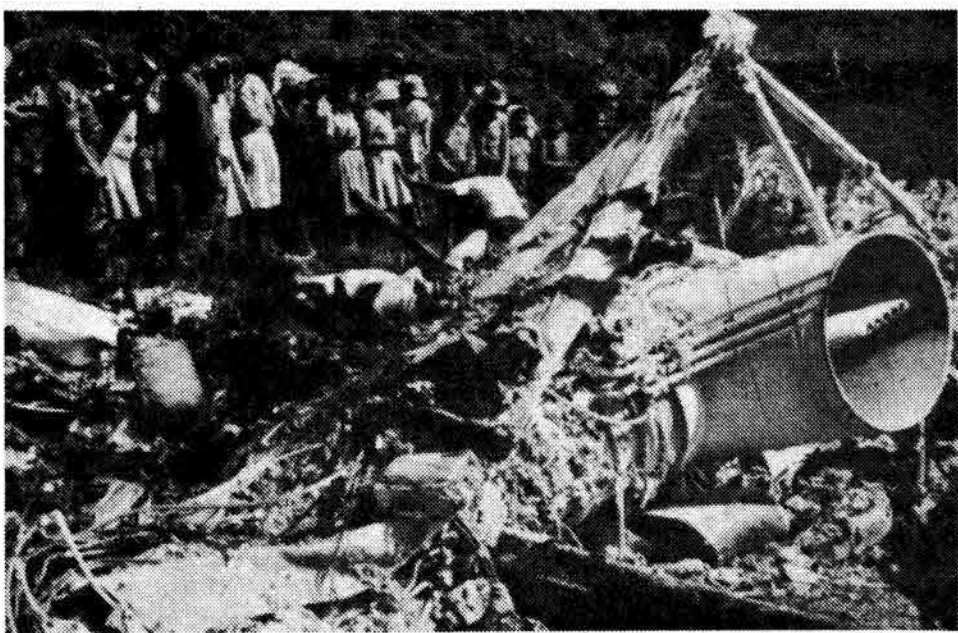
The call for a nationwide trucking shutdown reflects a change in the ITA's atti-

tude toward the Reagan administration. As recently as its December issue, *Overdrive* editorialized that "Reaganomics" should be given a chance, and that "for now, the best thing would be to work within the system."

But the January issue of the magazine, reporting a "giant tax increase for trucks," headlined its story, "Lame Duck Congress Hatches Tax Turkey." And, on January 7, the day after Reagan signed the so-called Surface Transportation Assistance Act into law, the ITA was calling for the January 31 shutdown.



American Agriculture Movement leader Alvin Jenkins reading out rights in U.S. Constitution at Springfield, Colorado, farmers' protest.



Barricade
U.S.-backed war led to helicopter crash and death of 75 Nicaraguan children near Honduran border last December.

Sandinistas denounce CIA terror campaign against Nicaragua

BY HARRY RING

At *Militant* press time, foreign ministers of the 96-member Movement of Non-aligned Countries were opening a week-long meeting in Managua, Nicaragua. Despite pressure from Washington on some of the participants, the influential gathering was expected to condemn U.S. aggression against Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, Washington has failed to respond to a Nicaraguan protest which charged it with backing a right-wing military movement trying to overthrow the people's government in Managua.

Organized, trained, and supplied by the CIA, these forces have been escalating their incursions into Nicaragua from across the border in neighboring Honduras.

In its January 6 protest to Secretary Shultz, the Nicaraguan government said that efforts to negotiate the issue with the government of Honduras proved "fruitless" because Washington "has transformed Honduras into a base of armed and terrorist operations against Nicaragua."

The U.S. funded and organized killers consist mainly of former members of the National Guard through which the late dictator Anastasio Somoza maintained his tyrannical rule until overthrown by the people of Nicaragua in 1979.

Grouped mainly in camps along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, these counterrevolutionary exiles have, in recent months, been making deeper forays into Nicaragua.

This Washington-sponsored operation is being carried on with the complicity of both parties in Congress.

In December, a bipartisan effort resulted in legislation assertedly prohibiting the government from providing "military equipment, military training or advice or other support for military activity for purpose of overthrowing the government of Nicaragua or provoking a military exchange between Nicaragua and Honduras."

This coverup legislation, intended solely to ease public apprehension about a new Vietnam in Central America, was put through with the justification that CIA director William Casey had assured key congressional leaders that the purpose in backing the counterrevolutionaries was simply to "harass" the Nicaraguan government, not overthrow it.

Even according to U.S. press accounts, the asserted "harassment" attacks are escalating fast.

UPI reported from Managua January 2 that 200 *contras*, as the counterrevolutionaries are called, attacking from Honduras, had bombarded three Nicaraguan border towns, killing two Nicaraguan soldiers. They succeeded in penetrating 30 miles into Nicaragua and burned down a filled government tobacco warehouse.

According to the Nicaraguan government, the *contras* are not only penetrating deeper into Nicaragua, but seem to be aiming at capturing villages with the hope of creating a "liberated zone" within Nicaragua.

For example on December 8, a 400-member *contra* unit attacked the town of Jalapa, south of the Honduran border and fought Nicaraguan army forces for five days before being driven back into Honduras.

The Nicaraguan army reports almost constant fighting in that area, most of it much farther inside Nicaraguan territory.

Last December 26 a correspondent for the San Diego *Union* reported from a remote Honduran mountain border village, "Despite U.S. and Honduran government denials, this country continues to serve as a base of support for military operations directed against the Sandinista government of neighboring Nicaragua."

Interviews with dozens of area residents, the report stated, "provided descriptions of well-armed and uniformed Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries . . . continuing to expand their military operations inside Nicaragua and maintaining several large bases on the Honduran side of the border."

Meanwhile, Eden Pastora, the "democratic" organizer of counterrevolutionary activity against the Nicaraguan government gained a new adherent when Francisco Fiallos, former Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States surfaced at Pastora's Costa Rican headquarters.

Fiallos was removed as ambassador December 19 after giving an interview to the right-wing Managua daily, *La Prensa*, attacking the revolution.

Prior to departing, Fiallos held a press conference in Washington. He said he could no longer serve the revolution because the people are assertedly not living "under a system of law."

On January 7, it was disclosed that Fiallos had split with \$668,000 of the Nicaraguan people's money. On deposit in the United States after the sale of Nicaragua's old ambassadorial mansion, Fiallos had withdrawn the money over several months. He closed out the account the day before *La Prensa* was slated to publish his interview.

From his haven in Costa Rica, Fiallos asserted to reporters that he had withdrawn the cash by orders of the Nicaraguan government and had turned it over to a "confidential messenger."

He refused, however, to identify the "messenger."

A true "patriot."

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Publications fund ends, final figure \$312,021!

BY HARRY RING

As of January 12, we received \$312,021 toward our \$250,000 Socialist Publications Fund — 125 percent of our goal!

The official closing date for the fund was January 1, but contributions are still arriving and before the month is out the figure will be even higher.

The windup of the fund drive coincided with the national convention of the Young Socialist Alliance. The political success of the convention, and our fund drive, are very much related.

The YSA convention confirmed that the revolutionary socialist movement is gaining ground in this country, particularly among young working people, and that the process is only in its initial stage.

The convention was imbued with confidence that important working-class battles lie ahead and that the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance will play an important role in them.

That same political conviction was key to the success of the Socialist Publications Fund. We needed the \$250,000, and more, to cope with the inflation-induced publishing deficits of the *Militant* and its sister publications, *Perspectiva Mundial* and *Intercontinental Press*.

Yet it was a bold move to try to raise a quarter of a million dollars. It was twice the amount of any previous such fund and came at a time of wholesale layoffs. Yet the fund was oversubscribed by a greater margin than we expected or hoped for.

The high point of the YSA convention was the rally in solidarity with the people of El Salvador. The repeated, resounding ovations extended to the speakers at that rally voiced the deep sense of solidarity of these young revolutionaries with their Salvadoran and Central American comrades.

They clearly recognized the urgency and potential of building a broad-based, working-class movement to oppose U.S. imperialist intervention against the Salvadoran revolution and to oppose Washington's aggression against Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada.

The audience clearly agreed with the message from the platform that the struggle in Central America and the Caribbean constitutes today's front line in the fight for socialism.

They agreed as well that every blow struck in defense of the Salvadoran and Central American revolution advances the anticapitalist cause here as well.

That's also why they joined with SWP members and supporters in digging so deep to ensure the success of our publishing fund.

And they surely did dig deep. We did have some supporters who were in a position to make especially generous contributions. There were 76 people who gave more than \$1,000 each. But the big bulk of the money came from the weekly paychecks of more than a thousand SWP and YSA members and supporters.

Some were able to pledge larger amounts. In some cases oil workers, coal miners and other relatively well-paid

workers contributed more than \$700 each.

But there were also miserably underpaid garment workers who scraped up contributions of \$100 and over.

We owe a collective thank-you to *Militant* readers who responded generously, to a special letter we sent out and to the fund coupon we ran in the paper. With contributions still coming in, we have so far received \$7,182 directly from 207 readers.

Coming home from the YSA convention in one of the charter buses to New York, there was a group of young Latinos. They laughed and joked, discussed politics earnestly, and sang and played tapes of revolutionary songs.

Several young Nicaraguans were teaching the others all the Spanish words to the Sandinista national anthem and other revolutionary songs of their country.

Some of these young people were members of the YSA. Others were guests of the convention. All of them conveyed the sense of being spirited, serious young revolutionaries.

Together they constituted a portent of things to come, pointing up the bright prospects of the revolutionary movement.

The wonderful success of our Socialist Publications Fund is also a portent of that bright future. And, it should be added, a resounding expression of the political confidence and fighting determination of our ranks.

U.S. resumes aid to Guatemala

BY FRED MURPHY

The U.S. government announced January 7 that it would sell \$6.36 million worth of military equipment to the Guatemalan dictatorship of Gen. Efraín Ríos Montt. This decision to provide the first open military aid to Guatemala since 1977 came one month after Reagan's meeting with Ríos Montt in Honduras, when the U.S. president hailed the butcher for being "totally dedicated to democracy in Guatemala."

Since seizing power in the aftermath of a coup last March, Ríos Montt has directed a brutal campaign of counterinsurgency against the Indian peasants of Guatemala's northwestern highlands. Hundreds of villages have been destroyed or abandoned, with estimates of the dead ranging from 2,600 to 5,000. Tens of thousands have fled into Mexico, and up to half a million have been left homeless.

In face of this horror, the State Department asserts the Ríos Montt has taken "significant steps" in promoting "respect for human rights." Spokesman John Hughes said the embargo on military aid was lifted because "political violence in the cities has declined dramatically," while "recently there are indications that the level of violence in the countryside has declined as well."

The dictatorship has indeed claimed success in "pacifying" large areas of the highlands, where masses of Indians have been participating in the armed struggle against military rule, led by the Guatemala Nation-

al Revolutionary Union (URNG).

U.S. journalists who were given an army-guided tour of the northwestern provinces in late December reported an "uneasy peace." Many villagers had been herded into closely guarded refugee camps and pressed into labor gangs or so-called civil patrols.

"The army burns their crops, burns their houses, until they take to the mountains," a relief worker told the *Miami Herald*. "When they come out, starving, they're called refugees."

The counterinsurgency operations shifted in late November to San Marcos Province, in the southwest. At least eight villages there came under aerial bombardment, mortar attack, or invasion by army units. Four villages were destroyed.

There is deep and widespread opposition among U.S. working people to arming and bankrolling a regime responsible for such terror. Also, 78 members of the House of Representatives have introduced a bill that would block the arms sale. "The 'quiet' the administration cites as justification for the sales is the quiet of the dead," said Rep. Thomas Harkin of Iowa.

"We should not reward the government of Guatemala," Harkin continued, "for being particularly effective in its brutality nor for simply moving the government's violence into the countryside where it may be more difficult to see but is still horribly real."

From Intercontinental Press

Massive assault hits Conrail workers

Bosses ignore unions, slash wages, working conditions in takeover

BY JIM GOTESKY

NEW YORK — Massive new attacks on wages and working conditions are facing railroad workers operating commuter lines in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Beginning Jan. 1, 1983, the Northeast Rail Service Act (NERSA) ordered the management of these lines transferred from Conrail to local transit authorities. NERSA also required the 17 railroad unions affected to negotiate new contracts with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) in New York, the New Jersey Transit Authority (NJTA), and the Southeast Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA).

The transit authorities are demanding that all previous union contracts be declared null and void. The new contract offers include qualitative changes in work rules and slashing of wages and benefits. Thousands of rail workers — some with 10 or more years' seniority — will be thrown onto the unemployment lines.

The NERSA-mandated takeover of Conrail commuter lines is the newest stage in railroad company and government attacks on rail workers.

Background to attack

Conrail was formed in 1976, amalgamating a number of major commuter and freight railroads in the Northeast. Owners of the Penn Central railroad, the largest of the railroads merged into Conrail, set the stage for the formation of Conrail by systematically bankrupting the Penn Central. Their aim was to free their investments in railroads for more profitable ventures.

Congress used the bankruptcy of the Penn Central and five other smaller railroads to form Conrail, freeing their owners from all responsibility while protecting their investment.

Conrail remains today a wholly private company, subsidized by the government through tax money. Since 1976, Conrail has received \$1.75 billion in federal aid and hundreds of millions from state and local governments.

Through the formation of Conrail, railroad owners and stockholders were able to rebuild — at public expense — deteriorated trackage and to restock modern equipment.

The Penn Central bankruptcy threatened massive job loss, so the establishment of Conrail was used effectively to wrench major concessions in wages and work rules from rail workers. Conrail workers have been forced out from under the national rail contract. As a result, Conrail trains run with smaller train crews, slashing jobs and making the work more dangerous. The remaining workers have made wage concessions including a 1980 12 percent wage "deferral."

The government and the Conrail management claim that these steps now make it possible to turn Conrail back over to totally private functioning.

The MTA, NJTA, and SEPTA are leaping at the opportunity to deal new blows to rail workers. The results will be watched closely by rail owners all across the country who are pressing for massive concessions from rail labor.

The scope of the changes demanded by the commuter authorities is wide. Work rule changes demanded include lengthening the work day; slashing overtime, holiday pay, crew size, and entry rates; changing the system for bidding and testing for job qualifications; and a big step-up in contracting out work, eliminating jobs. Virtually no gain by rail workers over the decades is not under attack.

The MTA is demanding the elimination of the cost-of-living adjustment. Wages paid engineers for mileage traveled over 100 miles a day will be eliminated.

Formerly, engineers and train crews were paid by the job. Now they will be paid by the hour for a so-called eight hour day. However, as the MTA explains, the real length of the working day and rate of pay will be quite different. Commuter traffic is heaviest in the morning and in the evening, the MTA argues, and therefore train operating crews must be available during "peak" hours. This creates "swingtime" in between the morning and evening rush

hours of up to four hours when crews must be on the job. The 8-hour work day thus becomes the 12-hour work day. The MTA will give workers "half-hours" pay for every hour of swing time they are on the job. The result is a 12-hour day with 10-hours' pay.

The NJTA added to this demand that part-time workers be allowed to fill the swingtime slots when needed.

No refund on wages

The MTA and NJTA refuse to discuss refunding the 12 percent wage deferral workers gave Conrail. While Conrail operated the commuter lines, the transit authorities paid Conrail for its services. Conrail then paid its workers. In New York, for example, the 12 percent wages deferred were paid to Conrail by the MTA. Now, the MTA says the 12 percent will not be repaid to rail workers.

The MTA wants extension of the probationary period for new workers from three to six months. New workers in the skilled crafts will receive only 80 percent of the full rate of pay. Their rate will increase over five years to the full rate.

The MTA offer to its electricians provides that 5 percent of the jobs at each repair shop be designated as "special" jobs. Assignment to those jobs does not depend on seniority. The MTA has the sole right to choose who will fill these jobs, gutting job protection.

In addition, the length of time during which the MTA can fire an employee for falsifying an application will be increased from six months to five years.

In exchange for these massive concessions, the MTA is offering a three year contract containing wage increases of 7 percent, 6 percent, and 7 percent for each year of the contract. With the elimination of COLA, these wage increases will not equal the buying power cut away by inflation over the next three years.

The NJTA is demanding similar concessions while offering a much smaller wage package. New Jersey members of the Transit Workers Union were offered 0 percent, 2 percent, and 2 percent increases over 3 years.

In Philadelphia the picture is drastically worse. SEPTA wants to break the rail unions the way the federal government broke the air traffic controllers union. On January 1 SEPTA shut down all of the formerly Conrail commuter lines, ostensibly to inspect the trains, and locked out the workers. The lines are being reopened one by one. SEPTA is demanding that all former Conrail workers be treated as newly employed transit workers — and that they start at minimum wage.

At best, the living standards of those with jobs will drop sharply. And the quality and safety of commuter rail services will fall.

Layoffs are already taking place. In New York and New Jersey engineers must have 10 years' seniority to hold a job. Five years is required for train crews to hold a job. In Philadelphia the majority of former Conrail workers are locked out of a job.

Role of government

On their own, the transit authorities could not dictate such onerous terms to the unions. Standing behind the commuter authorities are three government mediation boards and the threat of federal intervention against rail labor if rail workers do not knuckle under.

In October 1982, when the negotiations reached a deadlock, President Reagan appointed three special mediation panels to recommend settlement in each situation. The reports drafted by federal mediation boards sided with the transit authorities in every case. The emergency board governing the SEPTA negotiations explained, "This board strongly believes that SEPTA should be viewed as a transit operation and not as a railroad. Thus the terms and conditions of work for individuals employed by Conrail should not be passed down to SEPTA. . . . With due respect for craft dignity and tradition, the rail operation will become a segment of an area transit system and it must be operated accordingly."



Conrail employers first asked and got concessions from unions, now are out to break them. Militant

All the commuter authorities hold this view. Railroads are not railroads when they are run by transit authorities. This is not because when "railroad trains" become "transit trains" they no longer run on steel rails. It is because transit workers make lower wages and work in worse working conditions than other railroad workers.

The boards' dubious distinction between railroads and rail transit systems has only one purpose — that is, to legitimize the ferocious attack being launched against these workers.

The emergency boards' reports deny workers unemployment benefits if they refuse to accept the commuter authorities contract terms and go on strike.

The boards' reports were greeted with cheers by the transit authorities. For months, in preparation for negotiations with the rail unions, the authorities have complained loudly of budgetary shortfalls threatening transit operation.

Newspapers have been running banner headlines promising fare increases. Rail workers' living standards and wages are pitted against rising commuter fares. The solution offered by the transit agencies is to lower rail workers' living standards.

Anyone who has taken a ride on the New York subway system knows that taking

wages from transit workers (who in New York received their first increase in five years this year) has not stopped the deterioration of the subways or the increases in fares.

Opposition in union

In the days before January 1, in New York and New Jersey, union officials capitulated to part or all of these giveaway contract terms.

But as details of the contract terms proposed by the MTA and the NJTA became known to rail workers, opposition to signing the agreements has mounted. One Conrail engineer, Paul Hraske, expressed the frustration he and his fellow workers feel, "The whole situation is scandalous, literally. This will have to be investigated and we need to know the truth about how all these 'fair' agreements are being arrived at. I'm furious about the whole thing and I want some answers."

The anger among workers was so great that the MTA, the NJTA, and union officials agreed to continue negotiations until February 1, one month past the deadline. But they also agreed to operate that month under the new take-away wages and working conditions.

Opposition has continued to grow since January 1. The fight is not over.

10,000 jobs to be lost in Lackawanna shutdown

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

On December 27, 1982, Bethlehem Steel announced the permanent elimination of 10,000 jobs at its Lackawanna, New York, and Johnstown, Pennsylvania, mills. The decision to shut down the basic steel-making operations at Lackawanna and combine operations at Johnstown is intended to boost profits by reducing Bethlehem's operating costs and its overall steel-making capacity. Capacity will be cut by 15 percent.

"We believe this is a prudent course of action for Bethlehem at this time," said Bethlehem chairman Donald Trautlein. "It should have a limited effect on Bethlehem's revenues and total shipments under expected market conditions." But this move will have a devastating effect on thousands of steelworkers and their families. While both plants had already been hit hard by layoffs (3,400 at Lackawanna and 3,200 at Johnstown) these new steps are a big blow.

The two towns involved will also be shaken just as Youngstown, Ohio, has been by U.S. Steel's and other steel company's mill shutdowns there. At one time Bethlehem employed 22,000 at Lackawanna. Within the last ten years as many as

12,000 were on the job at Johnstown.

Economic analysts predicted that further moves like these will be made by the major steel companies. The Bethlehem decision eliminates about 3.5 million tons of production capacity per year. Joseph Wyman, an industry analyst at Shearson/American Express predicted, "There will be another 10 to 20 million tons of capacity taken off in the next year."

Many workers may wonder whether this is simply more blackmailing by the companies to force the United Steelworkers of America into making major wage and benefit concessions. Under rank-and-file pressure USWA officials have rejected such demands twice in the past six months.

While the corporations certainly hope that moves like Bethlehem's will scare the union into a change in course, this was not the reason behind the shutdowns. The *New York Times* reported that Bethlehem spokesman Bruce Davis, "said it was unlikely that the Lackawanna plant would have remained open even if concessions had been forthcoming."

This decision is another bitter reminder that it is the steel barons' relentless drive for profits that is at the heart of the crisis situation that steelworkers are in.

Nicaragua youth inspire U.S. workers on tour



Militant/Michael Baumann

Members of the Association of Sandinista Children in Matagalpa, Nicaragua. Revolution transformed their lives from misery to hope.

BY JON HILLSON

Last Thanksgiving 16 North American travelers spent a week in revolutionary Nicaragua on a *Militant/Perspectiva Mundial* tour. We viewed the changes there close up. At the end of that week, each of us had been changed a little bit, as well.

* * *

Three impressions stand out.

First, there is virtually no discussion held with a Nicaraguan, either in official meetings or informally, that doesn't end up on the question of Washington's war against the Sandinista peoples revolution.

There is a steady stream of news from the northern frontier — the Honduran border — where a CIA-trained counter-revolutionary army has escalated its murderous hit-and-run attacks.

Second, we are struck by the country's inherited poverty — the legacy of the Somoza dictatorship that bankrupted the nation and bled it dry.

Managua was never rebuilt after the devastation it suffered in the terrible earthquake of 1972. Somoza simply pocketed the relief and reconstruction money that came in.

In Managua, as well as the half dozen other cities we see, working people live in vast *barrios* of one and two room wooden shanties.

Third, and most important, in the struggle against poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and economic sabotage, the spirit of the people is unbent, in fact, rising to every challenge. A spirit that exists despite the rising tension of war.

This is the new Nicaragua, *Nicaragua libre*, we are told by young and old alike, that is just being born.

* * *

Rick Higgins, a Baltimore machinist, has hours of conversations with Nicaraguans. One conversation, he says, stands out.

From a crowd of 50 children in the plaza in Matagalpa, a short, slender 12-year-old summons the courage to answer Higgins's questions as he fights off shyness.

"Before the revolution," Francisco Rivera says in a steady voice, "all there was was misery. The first gain of the revolution was that we organized ourselves in our new organization *La Asociación de Niños Sandinistas* (Association of Sandinista Children). Through this organization we got shoes, clothes, and can go to school. Now the children are happy."

* * *

New York City transit workers Helen Schiff and Rick Congress are walking with several other members of the tour through the new children's park, built by the Sandinista government on the edge of Los Escombros, the ruins of downtown Managua. A festival for the children is taking place, and a crowd of several hundred has gathered for entertainment.

When the emcee of the event learns that North Americans are there, he asks them to say a few words.

They give greetings, messages of support and solidarity, pledge stepped up work against U.S. aggression, all to applause.

Then, Schiff asks the crowd, "do you have any message for us to take to working people in the United States?"

"There was," she says, "complete silence for a long moment. Then, an old man in the back of the crowd shouted out '¡Vivan los obreros estadounidenses!'"

Long live the U.S. workers.

* * *

The progress of the revolution in Nicaragua is examined with great attention by all.

The literacy campaign continues, struggling to get at a sixth grade reading level tens of thousands of workers and peasants who, four years ago, could not write their names.

Health care is now low-cost or free. Public education is free. Tuition to the national university has been cut by almost 80 percent.

For the people left homeless by last spring's horrible floods, new material for building, as available, is provided free.

The government controls food prices, fights price gouging, subsidizes staples like rice, beans, and salt so few go hungry. Transit fares have been halved by government support. Street crime in Nicaragua has been slashed by more than two-thirds.

There's been massive organization of working people into trade unions.

Thousands of peasants are now guaranteed the use of the land they work, rather than having to give the fruit of their toil to the Somoza family and its hangers-on.

* * *

The youth vanguard of *el proceso*, the term Nicaraguans use to describe their unfolding, unfinished revolution is organized as the Sandinista Youth-July 19 (JS-19). July 19, 1979 is the date of Somoza's overthrow.

Several young militants become friendly with tour members, especially with Luis Castro, a Miami bus driver who speaks fluent Spanish. They spend three days with the North Americans.

In a bare room in Matagalpa, a JS-19 theater group performs for the tour.

Tour leader Andrea González has been adopted by a four-year-old and a nine-year-old from the nearby *barrio* for the evening, who joke and play through the whole performance.

At its conclusion, everyone rises to sing the national anthem, a long and moving song of changing tempos, a combination ballad and military march.

It was then, González says, "all the kids' playing stops and these two kids stand at attention, sing for ten minutes without missing a word. It was total patriotism."

In Granada, a 16-year-old local leader of the JS-19 sums up the stance of the youth in defense of the revolution, against counterrevolution and invasion.

"We are ready," he says matter-of-factly, "to be another Vietnam."

Not everyone supports the revolution. Some openly oppose it, like the cab driver who clutches his own throat describing Sandinista rule.

Or the lanky, Miami bound youth in the airport who looks at the bulletin board on Soviet-Nicaraguan friendship — a source of much pride and interest among many working people — and says, "communism is shit."

Or the capitalists who live in the exclusive neighborhood of Las Colinas, and their upper middle class hangers-on, distinguished by their Fiats and Datsuns, air conditioning, and loyalty to *La Prensa*, the sensationalist pro-private-enterprise daily.

They remain in Nicaragua with the knowledge that Washington has not forgotten them. They remain determined to return to the days of old. The struggle between classes is right out in the open in Nicaragua.

* * *

"Our revolution has to consider the fact that much of the economy is in private hands," 15-year-old Camilo, a JS-19 militant, says. He participated in the 1979 insurrection as a courier.

"That is why it takes time to educate our people, because we were kept poor and backward by Somoza. Our strategic aim is socialism. There is no question about that. But today we have to consolidate power."

The young fighter expresses what tour members hear in official meetings as well. "The ideology of the working class is the construction of socialism," a top Sandinista Workers Federation leader explains.

But pace, tempo, and timing are key, we are told. There is the burning necessity to get the most from private capital, its technicians and supervisors, to utilize such possibilities to benefit the people.

In bookstores of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) there are walls of the works of Marx, Engels, and Lenin.

In a department store in Granada, an older worker reads the *Communist Manifesto* off a rack of popular pamphlets.

In a drugstore — privately owned — in downtown Matagalpa, a huge portrait of Che Guevara adorns a wall.

"We read all the classics and study every revolution," a JS-19 leader tells us. "There is nothing which our working people should be deprived of in developing our process."

Such study is made to "apply to our conditions, our revolution, non-dogmatically and creatively," he says.

At the heart of this effort is the revolu-

tionary teachings of Augusto César Sandino and FSLN founder, leader, and martyr Carlos Fonseca Amador.

"This [Sandino and Carlos Fonseca] is where we start from. This you must understand to understand Sandinismo," the JS-19 leader says.

* * *

"It changed me," says Julie Smith, a 25-year-old waitress from Birmingham, Alabama. "Before I came here I supported Nicaragua, but I thought the military ran things. But now I know it's really a peoples government."

David Joseph and Carol Tarlen are office workers at the University of California at San Francisco, part of a statewide AFSCME union organizing drive.

Carol said she "felt so much safer here than where I live. Safer as a woman and more respected as a person. I left my bosses at home and met people as equals."

David sensed a "real lack of fear in the people. I felt like I was in a free country. And coming from the United States that felt kind of strange."

Peter Anastos, recently resigned as chairman of the Washington, D.C. local of the Democratic Socialists of America to join the Young Socialist Alliance. He says Nicaragua's revolution provides insight on how to fight for socialism — in the United States.

"It shows the role of young working people in leading the struggle, which is an inspiring message for the YSA." Indeed, there is tremendous interest in U.S. politics among the JS-19 — in the recent elections, the labor movement, the Black struggle.

* * *

Tell the truth about our process. This is the charge given to us, over and over. *Increase your solidarity work. Tell the working people in the United States we make the revolution not just for ourselves, but for them, that it is not our private property but for all who support us.*

It is by no means rhetoric, but said so often in so many ways by so many people that its honesty cannot be questioned.

"If people do not believe us, we want them to come to Nicaragua to see for themselves," says Raúl, the 24-year-old tour guide who began working with the FSLN at the age of 12. And he repeats a conviction stated by others: confidence in us, confidence in the working people of the United States, confidence in the final victory.

"You are," Raúl says as we near Sandino Airport, "part of our family."

'Carlos's story is not unique'

MANAGUA — Carlos Chavez Ruiz appears, at first glance, to be a happy-go-lucky young man, unrushed and easy going.

Then you learn the Somoza tyranny killed 23 of his family members, including his father, who worked with Carlos Fonseca Amador, founder of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). And that this 20-year-old fought in the mountains during the revolutionary war.

In the late 1970s, Carlos's cousin, a teacher who supported the FSLN, along with his wife and child were killed in their home by the National Guard. Somoza's U.S.-trained elite dealt with "subversives" that way.

Later, a brother fell in combat.

And of 20 cousins who joined the fight in 1979, ten were killed.

Engaged with the National Guard over barricades, Carlos saw his sister, 19, make the fatal mistake of standing up. Her face was blown off in a hail of bullets.

"She fell next to me," Carlos said. After a short tactical retreat, the fighters returned to claim their dead. Carlos's sister had been mutilated, her arms hacked off.

On her body, the guard had spray-painted, "long live Somoza."

Carlos returned home to his *barrio*, only to find his house wiped out and his family gone. A neighbor told them they'd been killed.

Carlos's story is not unique. There are, he says, "thousands like me." And even those "who suffered worse, who lost all



Militant/Jon Hillson

Carlos Chavez Ruiz

their family, who have no one, who are alone."

Carlos is a hotel clerk, a student, a member of his Sandinista Defense Committee. He is proud of his nation, his people, their revolution, its gains. An unsung soldier in the vast army of the Nicaraguan people, he says of the U.S. government and the counterrevolution it sponsors, "they cannot have anything back. Whatever comes, we will fight."

The good nature leaves his eyes that have seen so much and all traces of a smile from from his face.

"They are going to have to kill all of us, because we will fight to the end," he says.

— JON HILLSON

Grenadian women: a driving force behind revolution

BY BAXTER SMITH

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada — "This is our revolution. We know what we want and we know where we are going," Patsy Romain declared in the opening speech of the December 6-7 congress of Grenada's National Women's Organization (NWO).

For two days, more than 300 delegates gathered here from throughout this eastern Caribbean island. They discussed the advances that women have made in Grenada since the beginning of the revolution that toppled dictator Eric Gairy in 1979, the problems that they continue to face, and their role in the further advance of the Grenada revolution.

Reflecting the crucial role of workers in this revolutionary process, more than two-thirds of the delegates to the congress were working women.

The NWO congress also reflected the internationalism of the Grenada revolution, and the interest that it is arousing among working people in other countries.

Overseas guests came from Cuba, the Soviet Union, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Jamaica, Guyana, the United States, and a dozen or so other countries. The Soviet guest, in her address to the congress, spoke about the social and economic conquests for women made possible by the 1917 Russian revolution.

Messages of solidarity were sent to the congress from the Union of Vietnamese Women, the African National Congress, the South-West Africa People's Organisation, the Seychelles Women's Association, and other groups.

NWO in every village

Beginning as a group of 60 women in December 1977, the NWO today has some 6,500 members, or 27 percent of all Grenadian women above the age of 14. There is an NWO group in every village.

The NWO has been a driving force behind the revolution here and women have received many of the benefits of the revolution. Women hold ministerial and deputy ministerial positions and other high government posts. There are women leaders of the trade unions and of the National Youth Organization. There is a Ministry for Women's Affairs, the only one in the English-speaking Caribbean. One-quarter of the People's Militia is comprised of women.

Women map goals

The congress delegates unanimously adopted a three-year work plan to help advance the fight against unemployment in Grenada and to further the education of women.

This capped several months of intensive

preparation. Women in every parish and in the sister isles of Carriacou and Petit Martinique studied and discussed the draft work plan in workshops, presentations, women's parish (county) council meetings, and other forums. According to the NWO newsletter *Scotilda*, more than 2,000 women attended women's parish council meetings where the plan was discussed. Many of the suggestions offered at these meetings are incorporated into the final plan.

In reviewing the highlights of the work plan, NWO President Phyllis Coard told the congress that in the "new socialist society that we are aiming to build," women will be "marching together with all sections of the working people of our country."

The NWO president pointed to the oppression of women from slave through capitalist societies. She said that following the March 13, 1979, revolution, "many women's groups formed spontaneously out of women's desire to be organized." In May 1980, after the NWO opened its ranks to all women, it grew rapidly.

Women, Coard declared, have gotten "many material and physical benefits, yet the greatest benefit has been the equality of opportunity that the revolution has offered us."

Employment

A major goal of the NWO over the next three years will be preparing women for the thousands of jobs expected to come on stream in agriculture and construction, fields in which women have not traditionally been employed. The NWO hopes to help women learn the necessary practical and technical skills to become drivers, mechanics, carpenters, masons, and farmers.

According to the latest unemployment figures, one woman in every five who want to work is jobless. This equals a 17 percent jobless rate for women. Unemployment overall is 14 percent, far less than when the revolution began in 1979, but still a major problem.

Because the revolutionary government is viewing agriculture and construction as prime avenues to develop the economy, Coard told the congress that "if women do not enter these fields we will find a situation where jobs will become available, yet women will still be out of work." Moreover, if women do not take these jobs, it will hamper the economy, because the jobless figures show there are not enough unemployed men to fill them.

"We want to seek to alter women's attitudes about what is women's work," the NWO president said. To help with this, she urged that agriculture and construction training become compulsory in schools for boys and girls.

Much of this false conception about what is women's work is bound up with the ideological and class underpinnings of women's oppression.

During her speech, Coard got the loudest applause when she touched on matters that cut to the heart of women's oppression in the family.

Unlike before the revolution, no longer do women have to degrade themselves by offering sexual favors when seeking or keeping employment. But there is still abuse of women in the family. And this abuse, Coard said, "must be stamped out." She encouraged efforts to educate police officers about the seriousness of women's complaints against assaults in the home.

Coard also spoke about "false conceptions of morality" whereby social pressures prevent some pregnant teenagers from continuing their education.

Congress participants cheered when Coard announced that the Ministry of Legal Affairs had agreed to meet with the NWO to draw up new legislation that would make children born out of wedlock "legitimate." Under such legislation no child would ever have to suffer the social



Grenadian Government Information Service

Founding congress of the Grenada National Women's Organization (NWO) held December 1982 discussed role of women in revolution. At right, women participate in defending revolution against imperialist attack.



Militant/Sam Manuel

and financial stigma of being "illegitimate."

Coard also spoke about the problems of child support when fathers skip out on the need to support their offspring. She said that this problem and others involving family matters might be better handled through the creation of family courts, where members of the mass organizations could play a major role.

Coard said adoption of these types of measures would create in Grenada a "new type of human being with an all-rounded human personality."

Prime Minister Maurice Bishop also addressed the congress. He saluted the "tre-

mendous exercise in democracy" that was seen in preparation for the congress. He also paid tribute to the role of women in the struggle to topple the former dictatorship.

Bishop rebutted the proimperialist slanders leveled at Grenada for alleged human rights violations. The prime minister spoke about the expansion of human rights for women that has gone on since the revolution.

Bishop explained to the congress that adoption of the maternity leave law, equal-pay-for-equal-work law, trade union laws, and others have expanded the human rights of women.

From Intercontinental Press

Racist frame-up in Indiana

BY DAVID TURPIN

GARY, Ind. — Keith Dean and Cornelius Harper are two young Black men from Gary, Indiana, who are serving life sentences in prison as the result of a racist frame-up.

A white woman from nearby Highland, Indiana, told police that on the night of September 13, 1977, two Black youth forced her into a car at gunpoint, and proceeded to rob and rape her. Dean and Harper were convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

The woman "identified" the two by picking out their pictures from a high school year book. However neither of them fit the description she had given originally. She had told police that her assailants were between 16 and 18 years old, stood between 5 feet 6 inches and 5 feet 8 inches, and weighed between 120 and 160 pounds.

In fact Harper was 5 feet 4 inches and Dean was only 5 feet 1 inch and weighed only 100 pounds. Harper was 15 and Dean was 14 years old. There was no physical evidence of any kind, no finger prints, no blood tests, only the woman's identification.

The court ruled that they could be tried as adults. Unable to afford the \$75,000 bond, they waited in jail for more than a year and a half for their day in court. By that time they had grown to fit the woman's description.

In May 1979 they were convicted by a jury of 9 whites and 3 Blacks.

Immediately following their conviction, but before they were sentenced, two other young men, one of them Harper's brother, came forward and said that they could prove that Dean and Harper were innocent because they themselves were with the

woman that night. They denied having committed any crime and said that they had not come forward earlier because they had been sure that, since Dean and Harper were innocent, they would be acquitted. The essentials of their story were supported by polygraph tests.

In spite of this testimony Judge Richard Maroc sentenced Dean and Harper to life in prison for kidnapping, with concurrent 12 year sentences for rape and 10 to 25 years for robbery.

In August 1979 they were released on bond while the case was being appealed to the Indiana Supreme Court. For a period of almost three years Dean and Harper were free. Harper graduated from high school and became engaged to be married.

In April of this year the court denied their appeal, and they were ordered by Judge Maroc to begin serving their sentences. The court ruled that the testimony of the other two young men was not new evidence.

Today Dean and Harper are inmates at Michigan City State Prison. This reporter met them at an open house sponsored by "Lifers United for Penal Progress," which is an organization of prisoners serving life sentences. The lifers gave the case of Dean and Harper a prominent place on their program. Dean summed it all up when he asked those present, "What does a man have to do to prove he is innocent in this country? Or does it matter? I'm here just because a white woman pointed her finger at me."

The people of Gary and the surrounding area have begun to organize to free Dean and Harper. The "Concerned Citizens for Harper and Dean" meets every Monday night at 7:00 p.m. at 336 W. 41st St., Gary, Indiana 46408.



Banner at International Women's Day rally, Grenada 1981, reads: NWO women forward to defense and production.

Nuclear test victims of 1950s sue gov't

As he lay dying, Leonard McKinney believed that leukemia was a contagious disease he had gotten from a neighborhood girl named Odessa. If it wasn't Odessa, it must have come from one of the other leukemia victims in and around his town of Fredonia, Arizona, McKinney thought.

Salt Lake Tribune October 3, 1982

BY BILL HOYLE

SALT LAKE CITY — Leonard McKinney died in 1962. He often hauled goods by truck across the Nevada desert during the 1950s. His widow, Vonda, is one of 1,192 residents of Utah, Nevada, and Arizona who are plaintiffs in a historic radiation-cancer lawsuit against the federal government. Ten weeks of testimony in the trial here ended November 16, and final arguments were presented in mid-December.

The plaintiffs charge that their cancers or those of their loved ones resulted from radioactive fallout from open-air nuclear weapons testing. Between 1951 and 1962 over 121 open-air tests were conducted in Nevada. The suit charges that the government did not warn the downwind population of the danger, while using the people as guinea pigs.

Simple sunburn?

Victims testifying at the trial told of watching fallout clouds pass over their towns and then experiencing skin burns, nausea, and loss of hair. Government witness Dr. Eugene Saenger said that these incidents were probably the result of simple sunburn, food poisoning, or exposure to insecticides.

The government's crude attempt at a coverup in this case is nothing new. Hiding the dangers of radioactive fallout from the American people is an integral part of Washington's attempt today to get popular support for building more nuclear and conventional weapons.

In 1945 Washington dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Even though no other country had atomic weapons, the U.S. government pushed ahead with development and production. Testing began in 1946 in the Marshall Islands. In 1951, the first hydrogen bomb was exploded, totally destroying the island it was tested on. That same year open-air nuclear testing was moved to Nevada. Norris Bradbury, former director of Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in New Mexico, testified that moving the testing to Nevada enabled the government to triple the number of blasts while saving money for the military.

While the residents immediately downwind of the Nevada test site have been paying with their lives for this cost savings, the deadly fallout has traveled much further. In April 1953, a bomb code-named Simon created a radioactive cloud that drifted clear across the country. The radioactivity finally fell to earth in a thunderstorm over New York. Radiation levels in Troy and Albany, New York, reached 20 to 100 times normal, with hot spots much higher. On March 10, 1955, the National Weather Bureau reported a huge radioactive cloud from a Nevada test was stretching from Nebraska to New Jersey. Radiation levels in Lake Michigan were seven times the normal.

'Don't worry'

However, the government said there was no danger. The headline from the *Chicago Sun-Times* on the hot lake read, "Lake a Bit Radioactive, But Don't Worry About It." In 1958 the wind for one test was miscalculated and radioactivity was dumped on Los Angeles.

But the hardest hit area was southern Utah. On May 19, 1953, a blast code-named Harry (later known as "Dirty Harry") caused especially high amounts of deadly fallout. The residents of St. George, Utah, were told by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) that there was no danger, but everyone should take cover indoors for three hours. All vehicles traveling between Las Vegas and St. George were stopped at government roadblocks and measured for radioactivity. Hot cars

were hosed off. The drivers were never told why they had gotten a free car-wash.

Also in the spring of 1953, thousands of sheep were killed in Utah following a nuclear test upwind. The sheep suddenly lost wool, developed lesions, and died. The government said its fallout had not caused the mass deaths, but rather lack of rain, malnutrition, and poor managing of the herds.

The sheepherders filed suit against the government, but it was thrown out of court for lack of evidence. However, earlier this year, U.S. District Judge Sherman Christensen ruled that the government had lied and hidden information in the case. The sheepherders are planning to refile their suit.

Nuclear battlefield

Rural residents of the intermountain area have not been the only victims. Over 250,000 soldiers were forced to participate in open-air nuclear blasts between 1945 and 1962. At the Nevada test site, soldiers usually were ordered to conduct maneuvers near ground zero soon after the blast.

The Defense Department explained in an article in the October 3 *Salt Lake Tribune* that these maneuvers tested soldiers' "mettle on an imaginary nuclear battlefield." Nearly 3,000 veterans have filed claims with the Veterans Administration asking for disability compensation, charging their diseases were caused by radiation expo-

Preston Truman grew up in the small Utah town of Enterprise, 38 miles from St. George. He is the director of Downwinders, a Utah-based anti-nuclear-testing organization. Most of the members of Downwinders are victims of the 1950's testing. Truman, who is 30, is also a member of the National Task Force for a Comprehensive Test Ban. The following interview was conducted by Militant correspondent Bill Hoyle in Salt Lake City.

Question: The government claims it took all due precautions to protect people during the testing of atomic weapons in Nevada in the 1950s and 1960s. What actually happened?

Answer: The government lied, covered up, and suppressed the danger. When the "Dirty Harry" bomb forced residents of St. George to take cover in 1953, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) measured 5.3 rads of radiation in the area. Although this is far above even the government's "safe level," they refused to measure the contamination of the milk at local dairy farms.

In 1954 Paul Jacobs, a freelance reporter, visited downwind towns and found people and animals sick, burned, and losing hair. The AEC told him this was not the result of the nuclear tests.

Jacobs then contacted the Public Health Service, which had done a study pointing to the danger of the tests and warning that people should not be exposed further. The report was classified so Jacobs had to get it illegally.

The document, entitled "Report of Public Health Service Activities in the Off-site Monitoring Program — 1953," was finally



Preston Truman

Militant/Bill Hoyle



Atomic Tests in Nevada, a booklet distributed to school children by Atomic Energy Commission, claimed that watching an atomic blast was no different than watching a sunrise.

sure. These vets have been prevented from joining in the suit filed by those living downwind.

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that soldiers don't have the right to sue the government. The same *Tribune* article reports that soldiers "are barred from suing the government due to a doctrine rooted in English Common Law that says legal challenges would trigger unmanageable disorder in the military and because of the rule that the king can do no wrong."

The Veterans Administration's callous denial of responsibility for these soldiers' suffering is paralleled by the Justice Department's stance in the suit brought by civilian victims. While the government ar-

gues that the radiation didn't hurt anyone, it knows that few people believe this. Therefore, a second line of defense has been concocted, which is called the "discretionary function." By this government lawyers claim that even if thousands of people were killed government officials are immune from negligence claims when making judgments felt to be in the best interests of the nation.

But the victims of the nuclear testing are not impressed by this latest government scam. Their feelings can be summed up by a statement made by one of the downwind victims: "In my opinion, the government should be standing trial for premeditated murder."

'Gov't lied and covered up the danger'

released in 1971, but the last page was missing. However, Jacobs still had his copy.

The last page warned of blood changes and body immunities being reduced. It noted that cows had been affected and radioactivity had been found in the snow in New England after a Nevada test.

The government was also well aware of the deaths of thousands of Utah sheep following an atomic test in 1953. Faced with mounting evidence of the health dangers of the tests and growing public suspicions, the government launched an elaborate public relations program in 1955.

Q: What form did this public relations campaign take?

A. Government personnel were sent to live in each of the downwind towns to make friends and monitor fallout. The real purpose of this move was to make AEC explanations of the safety of the testing more believable.

Also, these monitors would show films in each local community. Some of the films I saw as a child were *Target Nevada*, *A is for Atom*, and *Atoms and Agriculture*.

Another film named *Atomic Tests in Nevada* was made in St. George with local residents as actors, including some of my classmates. Very few of the people who made the film are still alive today.

In 1957, my kindergarten class was given a yellow AEC booklet also titled *Atomic Tests in Nevada*. It was widely distributed throughout southern Utah by the AEC.

The booklet began by saying, "You people who live near the Nevada test site are in a very real sense active participants in the nation's atomic test program . . . which contributes to defense of the free world."

"Some of you have been inconvenienced by our test operations, nevertheless you have accepted them without fuss or alarm. Your cooperation has helped achieve an unusual record of safety. To our knowledge no one outside the test site has been hurt in six years of testing."

Q: Government doctors claim that fallout radiation levels were too low to harm anyone. What have other medical studies found?

A: Dr. John Gofman, founder of the biomedical division of the Livermore Laboratory in California, did a study for the AEC in 1965 and found that the radiation

dose received by the thyroids of young children downwind would cause 30 cases of thyroid cancer in St. George, Utah, alone.

The AEC responded by cutting off funding to Gofman. Another AEC study on leukemia rates was locked up until 1979.

More recently, Dr. Carl Johnson from the University of Colorado School of Medicine did a study of 4,000 residents of southern Utah who lived in the area through the 11 years of open-air testing.

He found a 69 percent increase over the normal cancer rate and four times more leukemia than expected. Johnson also calculated that the people living downwind from the Nevada tests had a greater exposure to radiation than the average person surviving the Hiroshima or Nagasaki bombs.

Q: Nuclear weapons testing is still going on in Nevada. How many tests are being conducted and what are the health dangers?

A: So far this year 18 bombs have been tested underground. Since 1962, 400 such nuclear tests have been held. Of these, the government admits that 41 were "leakers." The real figure is higher. In 1970 a test, code-named Baneberry, leaked for 25 hours, emitting 3 million curies of radiation, which reached all over Utah and finally drifted into Canada.

Also, British nuclear weapons testing has been done in Nevada ever since 1962 when they exploded a nuclear test bomb named Pampas.

Q: What health effects have you seen in your home town in southern Utah?

A: In 1962 doctors came to my school in Washington County without notice and started checking everyone's thyroids. Five of the students did not return to class that day. Regular visits by these doctors continued into the early 1970s. We were never told that the doctors were from the AEC.

My town, Enterprise, is located in the Escalante Valley. The postal deliverywoman for the valley counted who had died. Eighteen people had died from natural causes while 44 had died from cancer.

When the government claims no one was hurt, we who lived downwind know they are lying because we bury the dead. With thousands of nuclear weapons deployed around the world today, we all live downwind.

The asbestos plague: Manville 'bankruptcy' swindle robs victims

BY MARY PIKE

On August 26, 1982, Manville Corporation, one of this country's industrial giants, filed legal documents declaring itself in need of protection under the federal bankruptcy law. The day after it filed, Manville hurried to explain in full-page ads in the *Wall Street Journal* and 20 other newspapers that "nothing is wrong with our businesses" but that "thousands of asbestos-health lawsuits are the problem."

The ad was directed to Manville's "shareholders, employees, customers, suppliers, and creditors." Significantly, and not surprisingly, those disabled and dying from having worked with asbestos were not among the audience the corporation felt compelled to address.

Manville's 'creditors'

These individuals — or their survivors — are the "creditors" Manville wants protection from. They are the plaintiffs in some 16,500 lawsuits seeking damages from the company for illness resulting from exposure to asbestos. Among their number are shipyard workers, pipefitters, insulation workers, and brake mechanics. All have or had asbestosis or cancer or both.

Manville does not want to pay its victims. This single fact explains why the corporation that was for decades the world's largest producer of asbestos took the extraordinary step of filing bankruptcy. According to an article in the September 15 *Wall Street Journal*, Manville is "considered to be the richest company, in terms of net worth, ever to claim it was in danger of going under."

Underlying Manville's maneuver is what medical experts describe as "the nation's worst occupational health disaster." It is estimated that 9 million people were exposed to asbestos on the job between 1940 and 1980 and that 1.6 million will eventually die from an asbestos-related disease.

Staggering as they are, even these figures do not tell the whole story. The ultimate number of lives to be lost will not be known for years because the disease-producing effects of asbestos have a long latent period. It is common for 20 to 40 years to elapse before symptoms begin to appear.

Prominent among the asbestos-related diseases are asbestosis and mesothelioma. Asbestosis is a chronic lung disease that results in diminished breathing capacity owing to scarring of lung tissue. Mesothelioma is an extremely lethal form of cancer. In addition, a recent study has linked asbestos exposure to an otherwise rare gastrointestinal cancer.

Shipyard workers hit hard

Shipyard workers and their survivors constitute the largest single category of

those seeking redress from Manville and various other companies that produce or had produced asbestos.

Companies, other than Manville, significantly involved in the asbestos litigation include: Ametex Corporation of Radnor, Pa.; the Celotex Corporation, Tampa, Fla.; Eagle-Picher Inc., Cincinnati; the Corning Corporation, Pittsburgh; Raybestos-Manhattan Inc., New York; the Rock Wool Manufacturing Company, Leeds, Ala.; and UNR Industries, Inc., Chicago.

The U.S. Navy reportedly has been the world's largest user of asbestos. During World War II, those employed in shipyards like New York's Brooklyn Navy Yard frequently worked long hours in literal clouds of asbestos dust. Although protective regulations existed, they were weak and the government had no intention of enforcing them.

The news that a company with a reported \$2.2 billion in assets, \$600 million in unspent liability insurance, and a present net worth of \$1.1 billion was claiming the need of protection in bankruptcy provoked a variety of reactions.

One expert in bankruptcy law described Manville's filing as "very unusual"; another said simply that he had "never seen anything like it." Even Sen. Robert Dole, a Republican from Kansas, labeled the corporation's action "dubious and unusual at best."

Workers angry

The reaction of the injured workers, however, was angry. A typical response was that of Jim Vermeulen, 55 years old, a former Manville employee, and an asbestosis victim. Vermeulen says of the bankruptcy filing, "it is as plain as the nose on my face that Manville will do anything it can to evade responsibility."

Vermeulen should know. He sued Manville five years ago, and after a long fight, succeeded in getting an order from the California Supreme Court directing Manville to pay him \$28,000. Despite its hypocritical statements that everybody should be treated fairly, Manville has yet to pay Vermeulen the money awarded him and engages in a continuing legal battle to avoid payment.

The company anticipated major criticism. To counter it, it has engaged in an extensive and expensive public relations campaign. The campaign is geared toward explaining why a move to avoid compensating the injured workers and their families is in fact a public service by a responsible corporation.

Manville explains that filing bankruptcy was the only course left it given the "irresponsible" behavior of Congress in neglecting to remove from Manville the burden of compensating the injured workers.

In a further effort to stave off compen-



Worker with the cancer mesothelioma. Single exposure to asbestos dust can cause this cancer. An estimated 9 million workers have been exposed to dust from asbestos products of Manville and other companies.

sating those injured, Manville has sued a host of its insurers, alleging that the "bad faith of insurance companies" made it necessary for the company to resort to bankruptcy.

Evidence that has become public in the more than 90 trials held to date establishes that Manville systematically disregarded the health and safety of all workers handling its asbestos products. Manville asserts that the connection between asbestos exposure and certain lung diseases was not known until 1964. This is absolutely false, and Manville knows it.

Medical and scientific literature documenting the hazardous effects of asbestos dust have been available to the asbestos manufacturers since the 1930s. Asbestosis lawsuits had been filed against Manville's corporate predecessor in the late 1920s; the company settled the cases in 1933 for \$33,000. It obtained in return a promise by the plaintiffs' lawyer that he would not represent any other injured workers in similar litigation. One year later, a lawyer for the giant asbestos firm stated: "It is the policy of Johns-Manville to oppose any bill that attempted to include [illness linked to] asbestos as compensable."

Manville's coverup

Additional facts detailing Manville's guilt continue to emerge. Lawyers for the injured workers recently won permission to take the deposition of a former Manville employee. The employee said in a sworn statement filed with the court that he had met in the 1940s with the president and counsel of Johns-Manville, as the corporation was then known, and the president had stated that "it was Johns-Manville's policy not to do anything or tell the employees" of the health hazards connected with asbestos exposure.

Lawyers for Manville resisted the taking of the deposition since once taken, the witness' statements may be used as evidence if the witness later becomes unavailable to testify. Charles Roemer, the employee in question, is 83 years old and suffered congestive heart failure last January. If lawyers for the injured workers succeed in taking the deposition of Roemer, the bankruptcy judge has ruled that his testimony must be kept secret, thus aiding Manville's cover-up.

Manville chief executive John McKinney says the company expects to emerge from the bankruptcy proceedings "stronger than ever." In the meantime, it isn't doing badly. In fact, says McKinney, it's "business as usual." For example, all of the company's major suppliers have continued to extend it credit on normal terms.

All litigation against it, including the asbestosis suits, was automatically stayed for a period of time, and no new claims may be filed against it while the company's reorganization proceeds. Further delays will undoubtedly occur while the bankruptcy court deals with the company's petition.

The fact that such litigation is expensive

does not trouble Manville much; at the time of filing it had already paid \$24.5 million in legal fees, \$5 million more than it had paid to the injured workers, whether by way of settlement or court judgment. In addition, the company ceased payments on suits voluntarily settled, claiming that the bankruptcy law required it to do so.

While the Manville "bankruptcy" enables the company to protect its assets, it simultaneously insures that many years will pass before the injured workers are paid anything. Many will die waiting.

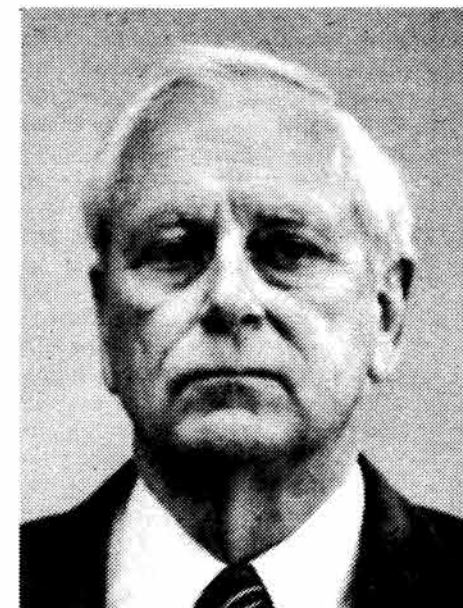
The bankruptcy judge will decide what amount, if any, Manville will be required to pay each of its existing creditors, among which are the disabled workers.

When the decision is made, it will undoubtedly be appealed to higher courts.

The outcome of these proceedings is of enormous significance. If Manville, the federal government, and the courts get away with denying compensation to the thousands of disabled workers, it will become easier for other workers to be similarly treated.

The Manville experience is a vivid illustration of what happens when disabled workers are forced to fight alone against the companies that rob them of their health. Union members should demand that their unions take a strong stand in support of the asbestosis victims, as well as on other issues that affect workers' health and safety in the workplace.

Workers have been and will continue to be stricken with and die from occupational diseases. They are the most visible casualties of a system that consciously places greater value on profits than on the lives of those who must labor to produce them. Where occupational health and safety are at stake, workers are quite literally fighting for their lives. Without aggressive participation by their unions in these fights, workers will lose.



Manville's Chief Executive McKinney says it's "business as usual" during bankruptcy proceedings while victims go uncompensated and die.



Hundreds of thousands of workers under U.S. Navy contract worked in asbestos contaminated shipyards in World War II, some of them working in clouds of its dust. Majority of victims suing Manville worked in shipyards.

YSA convention maps out El Salvador so

BY DOUG JENNESS

CHICAGO — Nearly 1,000 people rose to their feet chanting "¡Si Nicaragua venció, El Salvador vencerá, y Guatemala le seguirá!" [If Nicaragua won, El Salvador will win, and Guatemala will be next!] when El Salvadoran rebel leader Juan Ramón Osegueda concluded his speech at the Young Socialist Alliance-sponsored rally in solidarity with the people of El Salvador. Osegueda was the final speaker at the January 1 rally that climaxed the YSA's 22nd national convention in Chicago. A central theme of the convention was organizing El Salvador solidarity activity in the U.S. working class.

The delegates adopted a series of proposals to help advance El Salvador solidarity activity based on a recognition of the prospects for getting a good response among workers. The rally, punctuated often by applause, chanting, and standing ovations, expressed the enthusiasm and confidence of YSA members and supporters in implementing this perspective.

The high spirit at the rally flowed from the political recognition that Central America and the Caribbean are at the center of world politics. They are at "the center of our attention tonight, and at the center of the attention of every revolutionary-minded worker throughout the world," explained Larry Seigle, speaking on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party Political Committee.

"It is there that the battle is going on to extend the socialist revolution. It is there that giant strides are being taken toward resolving the question of our epoch — to bring an end to imperialist domination and an end to capitalist rule. It is there that victories are being won for our side in this battle."

Both Seigle and Osegueda, a leader of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR), explained that the war Washington is waging against the people of El Salvador is also being conducted against the working people in the United States. Therefore, "the process of liberation of the Salvadoran people is also part of the process of the liberation of the American people," Osegueda pointed out.

Other speakers described the relationship between the struggles they are involved in and the Salvadoran fight for liberation. Among these were representatives from revolutionary movements in the Caribbean and Central America.

Ruggles Ferguson brought greetings from the National Youth Organization of Grenada, an island in the Caribbean. He reported on the gains made in his country

Young socialists buy literature on Nicaragua

BY DON DAVIS

CHICAGO — Participants at the Young Socialist Alliance convention purchased more than \$6,000 worth of books and pamphlets at the Pathfinder Press table, with literature on Nicaragua leading the best-sellers' list.

Sixty copies were sold of Pathfinder's new pamphlet *Women and the Nicaraguan Revolution*, containing an important speech by Sandinista National Liberation Front leader Tomás Borge on women's liberation.

Thirty-one copies of *Sandino* by Gregorio Selser were sold, 29 of *Sandinistas Speak*, and 23 of *Sandino's Daughters* by Margaret Randall.

Lenin and the early years of the Communist International also attracted considerable attention. Six sets of the 45-volume *Collected Works of Lenin* in English were sold as well as one set of the 12-volume *Selected Works* in Spanish. In addition, 15 copies of *Theses, Resolutions and Manifestos of the First Four Congresses of the Third International* were purchased.

The table selling the socialist publications the *Militant*, *Intercontinental Press* and *Perspectiva Mundial* also did a brisk business. Fifty subscriptions and more than 100 single copies of the three publications were sold.

since the Gairy dictatorship was overturned in March 1979. He said that Grenada was following the example of Cuba where working people "took power exactly 24 years ago today."

Despite concerted imperialist efforts, he said, the Cuban revolution has not been overturned and is, in fact, stronger than ever. Today Cuba "is a shining light for the people of Central America and the Caribbean and those fighting for liberation the world over."

Josefina Elizander from Casa Nicaragua affirmed that "solidarity is needed more than ever by the Nicaraguan and Central American revolutions."

"We recognize," she said, "that Nicaragua is an example, but an example that shows that when a people is ready and willing to die on their feet rather than live on their knees, there is no force that can stop them."

Frank Rivera from the Organization in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala described the developing revolutionary struggle in his country. He stated, "When we say Guatemala, we say El Salvador. When we say Guatemala, we say the heroic fighters of Nicaragua."

Rafael Cancel Miranda, one of the five Puerto Rican nationalist political prisoners held in U.S. prisons for nearly 30 years, explained that for Puerto Ricans colonial oppression means being told to fight in Washington's foreign wars. As a draft-age youth he served time in U.S. prison for refusing to fight imperialism's war in Korea. "Now they are preparing to send our youth to kill Salvadorans, Nicaraguans, and Cubans!" he exclaimed.

Vernon Bellecourt, American Indian Movement leader, described the cynical way counterrevolutionaries use the Miskitu Indians in Nicaragua as part of their efforts to destabilize the Nicaraguan government. He had just returned from Nicaragua where he spoke at a mass rally in Managua to protest the deaths of 75 Miskitu children killed in a helicopter as they were being evacuated from near the Honduran border.

When Reja-e Busaillah, Palestinian poet and activist, was introduced, the audience leaped to its feet chanting, "PLO! PLO!" Busaillah, visibly moved, stated, "When I came to speak I wanted to say 'El Salvador, but don't forget the PLO.' Now, I say in deep gratitude, PLO, but please remember El Salvador."

'Can't kill a revolution'

Muntu Matsimela, a leader of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP), paid tribute to the Salvadoran fighters who "are fighting for liberation with the last drop of blood in their veins." We have seen in Central America and the Caribbean, he said, as well as among Blacks in the United States, that Washington "can kill revolutionaries, but they can't kill a revolution, they can kill a freedom fighter, but they can't kill freedom fighting."

The rally was cochaired by YSA leaders David Rosenfeld, a worker from Morgantown, West Virginia, who has refused to register for the draft, and Lisa Collins, a machinist from New York City.

Collins described the early December political assassination of Flor "Terry" Santana, a Cuban-American activist in the El Salvador solidarity movement in New York City. She pledged that the YSA would continue to actively participate in the campaign to get out the truth about this killing and to counter the FBI-New York police attempt to make it appear to be a suicide. She called on the audience to stand for a moment of silence in honor of Santana.

Other speakers at the rally included Gil- lam Kerley, indicted draft non-registrant from Wisconsin, and Dennis Brutus, a South African poet fighting to prevent his deportation from the United States to South Africa where his life would be in jeopardy.

Delegates discuss El Salvador

During the three days of the convention preceding the rally, the El Salvador campaign was presented and discussed under the political and organizational reports

given by Andrea González and Mark Weddleton on behalf of the YSA National Executive Committee.

González presented the possibilities for El Salvador solidarity work in the framework of mounting political discussions and militancy in the labor movement. Weddleton outlined the specific activities the YSA leadership proposed for implementing this campaign.

"We are proposing a sharp reorientation in our work in solidarity with the people of El Salvador towards taking initiatives to advance this work," González explained. "That is, an orientation towards the working class, towards the unions, Blacks, Chicanos — those who will make up the backbone of the fight against U.S. intervention in El Salvador and Central America."

She pointed to the success of the six-week, three-state tour conducted by Salvadoran union leader Alejandro Molina Lara in November and December as an example of what is possible. Molina Lara spoke to hundreds of unionists in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. He raised hundreds of dollars for the campaign to win the release of Salvadoran union leaders.

González and Weddleton noted that the formation last March of the World Front in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador also signified a step forward. The World Front, which organized the successful Mexico-U.S. Border Conference in Tijuana at the end of October, is based on three key conceptions for building solidarity work.

They are:

1) The revolutions in all of Central America and the Caribbean are interconnected and an attack on one is an attack on the others.

2) Orient to the working class and the oppressed minorities.

3) Everybody who agrees with this perspective should be encouraged to participate in the movement.

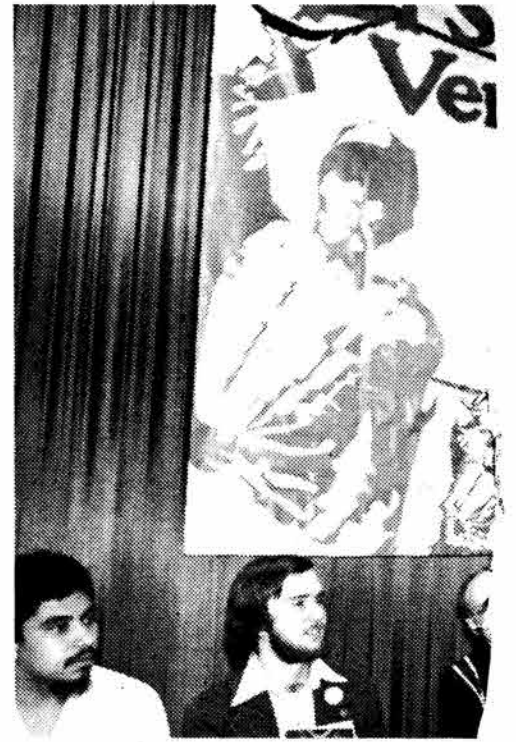
"We agree with these propositions," Weddleton stated, "and we believe this is the way we can move solidarity work forward."

The perspective outlined by the reporters won broad agreement from the delegates. During the discussion Alicia Muñoz from San Jose explained that the FMLN and FDR "recognize that solidarity work in the United States has lagged behind its possibilities. But they see a great potential ally among American working people. They agree with the perspective of building a working class solidarity movement," she stated.

Garment workers' solidarity

Shirley Peña from San Antonio, Texas, reported on experiences in organizing solidarity activity among garment workers at Levi Strauss. A petition campaign was waged in the plant to get signatures against U.S. intervention. As part of the campaign, she said, a badge day was declared, and 100 workers wore badges with the slogan demanding "U.S. Out of Salvador."

The principal immediate activities out-



Puerto Rican nationalist Rafael Cancel Miranda urged youth to kill Nicaraguans, Salvadorans, world politics today.

lined by Weddleton were:

• The January 22 march and rally on the Mexican-U.S. border called by the World Front. Car caravans are planned from all over California to converge on San Ysidro on the Mexican border. There, they will meet marchers from northern Mexico.

• An eight-week tour for Molina Lara in eight cities.

• A campaign to win a visa for Félix Antonio Ulloa so that he can tour the United States. Ulloa's father was the rector of the University of El Salvador until he was murdered in 1980 when the militia occupied the campus. The university still functions underground and is affiliated to the FDR. It is conducting an international campaign for funds to carry out its educational activities. Ulloa's projected tour is part of this effort.

• To help organize meetings in honor of Terry Santana in order to get the truth out about this political assassination and to make it more difficult for further such attacks.

The delegates and observers also heard a report on the situation in Nicaragua by Jane Harris from the Managua bureau of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. She described the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary attacks and the mobilization of the population to defend the revolution. She emphasized the importance of the tours the YSA had organized to Nicaragua, Cuba, and Grenada. According to statistics assembled at the convention, of the 850 people registered, 100 had been to Cuba before Washington imposed its travel ban last May. Forty-three have been to Nicaragua and 18 to Grenada.

Along with deepening the working-class orientation of the YSA's El Salvador work, González and Weddleton emphasized the importance of its work in eight major



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Chapter delegates elected a new national committee at the YSA convention. Mac Warren (left) was elected national chairperson and Andrea González (right) was elected national secretary.

Solidarity campaign among U.S. workers



da told El Salvador rally that U.S. imperialism is preparing to draft his country's
ubans. Rally underlined fact that Central America and Caribbean are at center of

Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

ationwide industries and projected steps
strengthen this orientation.

The eight industries are auto, aerospace
and related industries organized by the
United Auto Workers and the International
Association of Machinists, electrical, gar-
ment and textile, mining, oil refining, rail,
and steel. During the convention members
and supporters of the YSA and the SWP
to work in these industries held meetings
discuss their activities and national per-
pectives.

Weddleton explained, "We want to con-
-e the process of our reaching out and
becoming part of the workers among whom
we're seeing increased ferment, through
systematic weekly plant-gate sales of the
Militant, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Young
Socialist*, linking all members to this per-
spective." This he explained would be im-
plemented in collaboration with branches
of the SWP.

By regularizing plant-gate sales and in-
volving the entire membership in this activ-
ity, the YSA and SWP will be able to con-
duct discussions with thousands of workers
and advance the perspective of establishing
groups of socialist workers in these indus-
tries.

Weddleton proposed that the next two
months be utilized to get plant-gate sales
regularized. This would help prepare for a
10-week spring sales drive for the *Militant*
and *PM*. The projected dates of the sales
campaign are March 19 through May 27
with a goal to sell tens of thousands of
copies of both publications.

Along with the sales drive, Weddleton
proposed that 4,000 of each issue of the
Young Socialist be sold.

During the discussion, many delegates
pointed to experiences with the sales drive
and SWP election campaigns in the fall as
evidence that the proposal on plant-gate
sales was a timely move.

Argyris Haras from New York City
noted that decisions made by previous
YSA conventions had helped the YSA get
itself more situated in industry. This had
helped the organization more quickly sense
the changing moods in the working class in
the past six months and helped it to reach
the decision on plant-gate sales.

Orienting toward textile industry

Greg McCartan from North Carolina
explained that members of the YSA and
SWP began selling papers and distributing
campaign literature at the union-organized
textile mills in the Greensboro area last
year. This is the center of the textile indus-
try, the largest industry in the state. "The
initial response has been extremely good,"
he reported. The YSA chapter and SWP
branch, now operating out of offices in
Winston-Salem, plan to relocate in
Greensboro to facilitate their orientation to
the textile industry.

The deepening working-class orientation

of the YSA was also the theme of reports
and workshops on the fight for women's
rights and Black liberation. The reports
adopted by the convention were presented
by Judy Stranahan and Stuart Crome, re-
spectively.

Stranahan emphasized the need for the
YSA to step up its activity in the fight for
women's rights and "to ground our mem-
bership in the theoretical understanding of
the nature of women's oppression and
where it comes from."

She noted that working-class women are
playing an increasingly important role in
leading the fight for the rights of all
women.

She explained that all women members
of the YSA should belong to the National
Organization for Women (NOW) and, if
union members, they should join the Coal-
ition of Labor Union Women (CLUW).

Stranahan pointed to the importance of
the fight for abortion rights and the actions
taking place in several cities on January 23,
the 10th anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Su-
preme Court decision on legalizing abor-
tion.

During the workshop, Kathy Mickells
from Pittsburgh related that the NOW
chapter in Washington County, Pennsylv-

vania, heard a report from a woman miner
who was part of a recent victory in a sexual
harassment case.

Crome, in his report, explained that in
the growing resistance to the big conces-
sions demanded by employers, Black
workers have been in the forefront. He
pointed to the importance of many strug-
gles throughout the country from the de-
fense of Eddie Carthan and the Tchula 7 in
Mississippi to fights against police brutal-
ity and demonstrations against the Ku Klux
Klan. He also noted the activities in de-
fense of school desegregation and busing,
which are under attack in many cities.

Challenge for NBIPP

Crome pointed to the importance of the
NBIPP and the challenges it faces. Particu-
larly important, he said, is the need for the
party "to turn outward and participate in
the struggles taking place and in the discus-
sions on the need to break from capitalist
parties and chart a course of independent
political action."

During the discussion Jackie Floyd, a
new member from Miami, described how
she joined the YSA. She explained that her
militancy and politicalization is not excep-
tional, but is an example of thousands of
young Blacks like her who are fed up with
the miserable conditions Blacks face in
communities like Overtown and Liberty
City.

Other activities outlined by Weddleton
in his organizational report included the
importance of defending democratic rights.
He especially pointed to the campaign the
YSA is waging to defend unionists at Lock-
heed, McDonnell Douglas, and Martin
Marietta who have been fired or harassed
by their employers in collusion with the
federal government. The report projected
tours by victims of these attacks to be or-
ganized by the Political Rights Defense
Fund. (See article on this page.)

Weddleton also noted that in the past
year YSA members have participated in an
intensive educational program focused on
reading writings by Lenin, central leader of
the Russian revolution. He proposed con-
tinuing this program with special emphasis
on studying the first four congresses of the
Communist International held under the
leadership of Lenin.

Advancing Marxist continuity

The motivation for this proposal got a
big boost from an educational talk pre-

sented to convention participants and
guests by SWP national secretary Jack
Barnes. Barnes, speaking on "Their
Trotsky and Ours" emphasized that the
Fourth International, the SWP, and the
YSA trace their programmatic continuity
to the early years of the Communist Inter-
national.

Studying and conquering this heritage,
he said, is an indispensable part of de-
veloping and advancing the continuity of
Marxism as the working class goes through
new experiences. He pointed to the ad-
vance of the socialist revolution in Central
America and the Caribbean as the most im-
portant experiences today that are enrich-
ing the Marxist program.

Statistics assembled for the delegates in-
dicated that the YSA had won 126 new
members since July, 36 of them Black and
Latino. It was also reported that 67 percent
of the YSA members are industrial workers
or on layoff from industrial jobs and look-
ing for work.

The credentials report given by Ellie
García showed that of the 850 people pres-
ent, 206 were delegates. A little more than
half the delegates were women; 20 percent
were Black, Latino, and Asian-American.
She also reported that of the YSAers at the
convention 100 speak Spanish, 14 as their
first language, and 128 are studying
Spanish.

Many greetings received

Greetings were presented to the conven-
tion from representatives of the United
Secretariat Bureau of the Fourth Interna-
tional, the Socialist Youth Organizing
Committees in Canada, and the Interna-
tional Workers League in Puerto Rico.

Other greetings received came from the
PLO; Revolution, Britain; Resistance, Au-
stralia; Vanguard Youth, St. Vincent;
Communist League, India; Revolutionary
Communist Youth, France; and from rev-
olutionary socialists in Iran and Israel.

The convention sent messages to the
Palestine Student Congress meeting in
Chicago the same weekend and to the
World Front for Solidarity With the People
of El Salvador.

Andy Brooking, a leader of Revolution
in Britain, gave a short report on the polit-
ical situation in his country and the oppor-
tunities for young revolutionists there.

The final session of the convention
elected a new national committee. Mac
Warren and Andrea González were elected
national chairperson and national secre-
tary.

'Mobilize labor's power to defend democratic rights!'

BY MARGARET JAYKO

CHICAGO — Sally Goodman works at
the Martin Marietta aerospace plant in Den-
ver, Colorado, where she is one of three
women electricians. Goodman is currently
under investigation by the Defense Inves-
tigative Service (DIS) — the Defense De-
partment's spy agency — for her union ac-
tivity, socialist views, and the allegation
that she is gay. Her union — United Auto
Workers Local 766 — is defending Good-
man.



Militant/Charles Ostrofsky

Sally Goodman, victim of company-gov-
ernment harassment campaign

The recent convention of the Young
Socialist Alliance also voted to make de-
fense of Sally Goodman and other workers
who have suffered firings or harassment on
account of DIS investigations, an impor-
tant part of the YSA's spring activities.

YSA National Executive Committee
member Mark Weddleton explained in his
organization report to the convention, "The
increased attacks on democratic rights flow
from the aim of the bosses and their gov-
ernment to stifle opposition to their war
against working people at home and
abroad.

"They want to prevent working people
from discussing the capitalist and im-
perialist offensive and charting a course of
action to fight back."

Weddleton noted that the YSA is "a spe-
cial target of the rulers' anti-democratic at-
tacks. The axis of our defense policy is not
to rely on the courts — which we know
serve the needs of our class enemy — but
to mobilize the power of the labor move-
ment in defense of democratic rights."

At a rally on the first night of the con-
vention, sponsored by the Political Rights
Defense Fund (PRDF), a broad array of
fighters against government and employer
repression told their stories.

Tom Fiske, a worker at Lockheed Corp.
in Georgia, described a lawsuit that he's in-
volved in. Fiske and 14 of his former co-

workers who were fired from Lockheed for
their union activity and political views are
suing that giant war contractor, demanding
their jobs back.

General Bann told the story of the Tchula
Seven, victims of a racist frame-up in Mis-
sissippi. Jackie Floyd gave an eyewitness
account of the most recent rebellion in the
Miami Black community.

Other speakers included Sally Good-
man; Alice Peurala, former president of
Local 65 of the United Steelworkers of
America; Beverly Foster, whose son was
recently sentenced to life imprisonment in
Indiana on phony rape charges; Mac War-
ren from the Socialist Workers Party; Gar-
rett Brown, a union activist who is being
blacklisted by Lockheed in Atlanta; and
Héctor Marroquín, a YSA member who is
fighting for political asylum in the United
States.

The focus of the YSA's defense activity
will be building the tours of victims of gov-
ernment-employer harassment that are
being sponsored by PRDF this spring. Pub-
lic defense rallies will be held in cities
across the country, and PRDF is launching
a fund of \$150,000 so that it can continue
its important work in defense of political
rights.

A convention workshop on defense of
democratic rights confirmed that a broad
range of people, particularly in the labor
movement, can be enlisted in this fight.

Two talks from Salvador solidarity rally

'A U.S. anti-intervention movement would help stay hand of imperialism'



Salvadoran rebels in countryside

One of the high points of the Young Socialist Alliance national convention in Chicago was the January 1 rally of nearly 1,000 in solidarity with the people of El Salvador. The rally, sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance, heard a broad range of speakers. Following are the speeches given by Larry Seigle, a member of the Socialist Workers Party Political Committee who is responsible for coordinating the party's work in the struggle for solidarity with the people of El Salvador; and Juan Ramón Osegueda, a representative of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR).

Larry Seigle

Central America and the Caribbean are at the center of world politics. And events there are at the center of our attention tonight, and at the center of the attention of every revolutionary-minded worker throughout the world.

It is there that the battle is going on to extend the socialist revolution.

It is there that giant strides are being taken toward resolving the question of our epoch — to bring an end to imperialist domination and an end to capitalist rule. It is there that victories are being won for our side in this battle.

And it is there that revolutionary, working-class leaderships are coming forward to lead the toilers in the struggle for political power. They are seeking ways to mobilize the exploited and the oppressed to take the power, to overthrow the imperialist-backed dictatorships, and to replace them with a new kind of government, a government of the workers and of the peasants, which can begin to solve the crisis facing their countries.

And it is there, in Central America and in the Caribbean, that these working-class leaderships are reaching out to their allies among working people, class-conscious militants in this country, to join in a common front to stop Washington's war and Washington's intervention in their land.

Extension of Cuban revolution

Central America and the Caribbean are at the center of world politics because it is there that the Cuban revolution is being extended. Tonight, as we celebrate the 24th anniversary of the Cuban victory, we should remind ourselves of what it means that Cuba is no longer alone in this hemisphere.

When the Cuban revolution triumphed, the imperialists did everything they could to smash the revolution — the blockade, the Bay of Pigs, the blackmail, the sabotage, all of which failed.

But they also tried to spread the idea that the Cuban revolution would not and could not be repeated. That it was unique. They said, "We won't make the same mistake

again," — as though the Cuban revolution was the result of a mistake somebody made!

The more the imperialists talked about the uniqueness of the Cuban revolution, the more you knew that what they hated and feared the most was what they knew would happen if they did not succeed in overthrowing the Cuban revolution — that it would be extended in this hemisphere.

That is what has happened in Grenada. That is what has happened in Nicaragua. And that is what is happening in El Salvador.

These victories are destroying the idea, which was a reactionary idea, that the Cuban revolution was unique, an exception.

What we are seeing, and are part of tonight, in El Salvador is the battle to add another gigantic victory for the world revolution.

Salvador struggle on rise

As we meet, we are aware that the revolutionary struggle in El Salvador is on the rise. Victories are being scored, not just in the countryside with the advances of the revolutionary armed forces, but also in the cities where the unions and other mass organizations in the urban areas are moving forward to fight for the economic demands of the Salvadoran workers and for their political demands against the repression and against the war the government is waging against the forces of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front.

The revolutionary leadership, the working-class leadership, in El Salvador knows that the solution to the crisis in El Salvador lies in doing what the Nicaraguans did, in doing what the Grenadians did, in doing what the Cubans did. They overthrew the tyranny and took the political power into their own hands and used it to defend and advance the interests of all the exploited and all the oppressed.

Our brothers and sisters, our *compañeros* in El Salvador, know that the time is critical. There is a race between the revolution in El Salvador and the imperialist-backed counterrevolution in Nicaragua.

They know that if the Sandinista government were to be overthrown, it would be a deathblow to the revolution in El Salvador. But they also know, as we do, that if the Salvadoran fighters win, it will bring a mighty force to the aid of the Nicaraguan revolution.

Our comrades in El Salvador know something else — this is where we come in. They know, as we do, what the stakes are for imperialism in Central America. They know, as we do, that the imperialists will stop at nothing that they can get away with in halting the advance of the socialist revolution in this hemisphere. They know, as we do, that what happens in the class struggle right here in this country will deeply affect the outcome of their struggle and their war to overthrow the government in El Salvador.

Because they know, as we do, that the war being waged against them by the rulers of this country is a war that is also being waged against us here — against the working class in the United States. It is a war on two fronts. The rulers' offensive to try to stop the advance of the revolution in Central America and the Caribbean is also an offensive against our class here in this country.

They know, as we do, that the response of working people and the oppressed in this country to the attacks by the U.S. govern-

ment, by the employers, is changing politics in this country and is creating for us a new political framework.

This makes possible a movement against U.S. intervention in Central America made up of workers and of working-class youth, and oriented to the organizations of working people in this country.

This movement must be oriented to the coal miners, to the auto workers, to the garment workers, to the youth of the Black community in Miami, to the women who are fighting for their rights — to all those struggling against injustice and racism and discrimination. It must be oriented to those who have the most to lose from a new Vietnam and the most to gain from doing everything we can to weaken our own imperialist government, to deal a blow to this government, which is our enemy just as it is the enemy of the peoples of Central America and the Caribbean.

That is why what is so important for us today is the fact that the working-class forces who are fighting in the leadership of the struggle in El Salvador are also fighting to break down the barriers and the obstacles, to find their way to their sisters and brothers in this country, to link up with us. They are extending a hand of working-class solidarity across the border, to join with us and with everyone in this country who wants to fight in a united movement against U.S. intervention in El Salvador and all of Central America.

World Front of Solidarity

That is the significance of the formation of the World Front in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador, an organization that was created less than a year ago in Mexico to advance the coordination of solidarity work on an international scale. We are proud that the Socialist Workers Party and the Young Socialist Alliance are founding members of this organization. We are committed to advance the perspective of that organization throughout this country.

I want to conclude by saying one thing to all the Salvadoran *compañeros* who are here tonight. We believe, we deeply believe, that by committing ourselves to this course of building a solidarity movement in this country, of building a movement against U.S. intervention with the energy and the enthusiasm that has been shown here tonight at this rally, that we can help to set in motion the forces that can affect the course of events in El Salvador, that can stay the hand of imperialism.

But we are not doing this simply as supporters of the Salvadoran revolution, although we are supporters of the Salvadoran revolution to the marrow of our bones. We are taking this course because this is the line along which our struggle, the class struggle in this country, must advance.

What we are fighting for, the justice that Black youth are fighting for in the streets of Miami and in Tchula, Mississippi, cannot be won if the Black youth are going to be drafted and sent first to fight and die in a war against their brothers and sisters in El Salvador. The rights that women are fighting for cannot be won while remaining silent or supporting the bipartisan war policy of Washington. If the Democratic and Republican parties succeed in dragging us into a new war, it will set back the struggle to defend our standard of living, to defend our unions, to defend our democratic rights.

We take this course because only by advancing and deepening the workers' fight against imperialist war, by deepening proletarian internationalist understanding, can we hope to build the kind of movement here that can fight effectively in this country, as our brothers and sisters are fighting today in El Salvador, to bring to power here a government representing the workers and the farmers, a government that will defend and advance the interests of all the exploited and the oppressed.

A government like that here will mean bringing down the entire imperialist system. This is what we are fighting for. This is what we are pledged to do. And this is why we are marching together with our brothers and sisters in El Salvador and throughout Central America and the Caribbean.

Juan Ramón Osegueda

I would like to start this evening with a moment of silence for the thousands of Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Nicaraguans who have fallen at the criminal hands of the military dictatorships and the aggression of Yankee imperialism.

In the name of the Salvadoran people and in the name of their vanguard, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front [FMLN], and the broadest expression of their mass political organizations, the Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR], we would like to thank the Young Socialist Alliance for inviting us to be here at this solidarity rally.

Question of everyday life

El Salvador is a question of everyday life for the average citizen of this country.

I believe there are three basic reasons for this.

First is the intervention of the government of the United States, with millions of dollars in military aid, to defend what it calls strategic U.S. interests.

The second reason is the violations of human rights in El Salvador.

In the last three years, under the model of fascist domination that imperialism has tried to impose upon us, 38,000 Salvadorans have been murdered. This is 1.3 percent of our population; the equivalent in the United States would be 4 million people.

Of our people, 1.2 million are refugees in other countries of Central America, Mexico, and the United States, as well as inside our own country. To draw a parallel, proportionately the United States would have 75 million refugees.

The third reason we believe El Salvador is a daily issue here is the civil war.

I believe most of you here have quite a good understanding of how we arrived at this situation, but I'd like to make a brief summary.

The Salvadoran people have suffered several hundred years of oppression and exploitation by 14 families and their allies, the foreign oppressors, and 52 years of criminal military dictatorships. This produced the logical consequence, a desire on the part of the people to struggle for their survival. They have spent the last 48 years using peaceful methods to struggle for survival and justice.

But in 1970, the Salvadoran people began to respond with forms of organization and struggle that were qualitatively different. Eventually they were able to form what is today the FMLN and the FDR as their legitimate representatives.

The Salvadoran people are convinced that in the near future, we are going to win our liberation, our independence, social justice, democracy, and peace.

Also, the Salvadoran revolutionary movement has declared emphatically that it will be a member of the Nonaligned Movement.

Internal level of struggle

But what is the internal level of the struggle at this moment? We can say with absolute certainty that one-eighth of the territory of our country is a liberated zone.

In these liberated zones, the people not only have political control, but they have established people's power, people's justice, education and health systems.

Also, in 80 percent of the nation's territory, there is what we call a war of movement. This means that, according to the military plans of our vanguard, the Salvadoran people have the capacity to attack in that 80 percent of the territory.

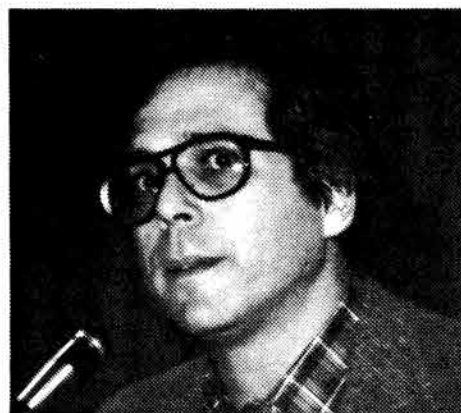
In spite of all this people's power, the Salvadoran revolutionaries have initiated several attempts to find a negotiated solution.

They have proposed that there be a dialogue with the criminal dictatorship in power as the starting point for a transition of political power in the country.

This is because we do not want war, we do not want destruction of the people, because it is our people.

In spite of all this, the response we have received has been the traditional one.

Continued on next page



Larry Seigle

Militant/Steven Fuchs



Militant/Ginny Hildebrand
Alejandro Molina Lara

Tour of Salvador labor leader is popular among U.S. workers

BY BILL KALMAN

PITTSBURGH — "We're asking the American people to prevent the U.S. government from continuing its intervention in El Salvador so that our right to self-determination will be respected." That message was repeated over and over again by Alejandro Molina Lara, as the exiled labor leader from El Salvador completed his five-week tour of Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

The tour of Molina Lara, a prominent leader of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers (FENASTRAS) and president of the Fishing Industry Union (SIP), was sponsored by the Pittsburgh Central America Mobilization Coalition (CAMC). During the last week of the tour, he spoke to electrical workers, coal miners, steelworkers, teachers, and students in an

effort to enlist the support of American workers in the fight against U.S. intervention in his country.

The final week of the tour began with a successful news conference in Pittsburgh on December 13. In addition to remarks by Molina Lara opening the news conference, the CAMC distributed a written statement that called for a halt to U.S. aid to El Salvador.

This statement was signed by United Electrical Workers (UE) Local 506 in Erie, Pennsylvania; Ron Weisen, president of United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Local 1397 in Homestead, Pennsylvania; United Mine Workers (UMW) Local 2300 in Kirby, Pennsylvania; the Pittsburgh Association of Priests; and Sister Patricia Mary Hefpelein, president of the Sisters of Mercy, as well as others.

That evening Molina Lara spoke before the business meeting of USWA Local 1397, which organizes U.S. Steel's sprawling Homestead Works. The work force at the Homestead plant has been decimated by layoffs and departmental shutdowns. According to Carol McAllister, a CAMC activist, Molina Lara's talk fit right in with the general theme of the union meeting, which was how to fight back against concessions and unemployment. One steelworker commented after the meeting, "It's no wonder there's no money for social security or jobs, it all goes into weapons for countries like El Salvador."

After the meeting a number of laid-off steelworkers talked to Molina Lara to get more information on the role of U.S. corporations in El Salvador.

Molina Lara spent the rest of the week in Erie and in Harrisburg. This was his second trip to Erie, a direct result of his speaking to UE Local 506 back in November. This local organizes General Electric's huge Erie plant. The Erie electrical workers received him with such enthusiasm that they worked with other antiwar activists to make sure Molina Lara's message would reach even larger audiences.

As a result, Molina Lara went back to Erie to appear before the Central Labor Council of Erie County, where he received an overwhelmingly positive reception. After he briefly described the reasons why the Salvadoran people had been forced to take up arms, the delegates unanimously passed a resolution calling on the U.S. government to end all military and economic aid to the Salvadoran junta.

In addition the delegates voted to contribute \$100 to the ongoing work that FENASTRAS is carrying out in defending political prisoners. This was in addition to the \$100 collected in individual contributions.

Molina Lara also spoke at Gannon University in Erie at a panel discussion sponsored by the local committee against registration and the draft. The other panelists included Dr. Max Azicri, a Cuban-born professor at Edinboro State College, and James Nelson, chief steward for UE Local 506.

Nelson particularly emphasized how American workers are starting to view Washington's foreign policy. He pointed out, "Working people talk about what the future holds for them, what the economic situation will bring. They are thinking about how this fits into the whole scenery of what's going on around them. There are big changes taking place among American working people."

Molina Lara added to this by noting, "Things are getting harder for Reagan. We know that the American people will not accept another Vietnam in Central America. That's why Reagan had to tour Central and Latin America. The U.S. government wants to use the armies of these countries to destroy the beautiful revolution in Nicaragua."

In addition, Molina Lara spoke at the Behran campus of the University of Pittsburgh, to the Erie County Committee for a Nuclear Freeze, and was interviewed by the NBC television affiliate in Erie.

Molina Lara ended the final week of his tour by addressing two UMW locals on Saturday, December 18. He spoke to coal miners at the business meeting of UMW Local 2258 at the Emerald Mine and received a warm reception.

He also addressed members of UMW Local 2350 at the Dowty Corporation Mine. This local had just been hit by layoffs and workers were in a militant mood. After Molina Lara explained how Salvadoran workers were fighting the bosses there, one worker remarked, "maybe we can get Alejandro a job up here."

Just about everywhere Molina Lara's tour went, working people received him with interest and enthusiasm. Probably the attitude of one young coal miner summed it up best when he said, "I'm glad he came over here. Now when ever they talk about El Salvador on television I'll remember what the brother said. It's people like us fighting against the U.S. corporations."

N.Y. Fire Dep't saw Santana death as murder

BY HARRY RING

NEW YORK — The police here are facing challenges to their assertion that Terry Santana committed suicide. An activist in the Salvadoran solidarity movement, Santana's body was found when a fire broke out in her apartment last December 4.

Questions about holes in the police story have been posed by *El Diario-La Prensa*, the city's leading Spanish-language daily, and by the liberal weekly, the *Nation*.

Santana was regarded as an important source of information on the civil war in El Salvador. She had edited *ES-Info*, a news source on political and military developments there.

Reporter Manuel de Dios Unanue wrote in the December 20 *El Diario-La Prensa* that "the authorities continue to consider suicide the cause of death of Terry Santana, although that death is surrounded by mysterious circumstances."

De Dios Unanue wrote, "According to information obtained by *El Diario-La Prensa*, the conflagration was of small size and was made up of small, intentionally set fires in different parts of the apartment. The fires were set using a flammable liq-

uid, whose containers were confiscated by fire marshalls investigating the case."

He added:

"The impression of the firemen was that the fire was not the cause of death of the person later identified as Terry Santana."

"Considering the possibility of an attempt to cover up a murder, they immediately informed the 34th Police Precinct, which has jurisdiction in the area."

And in the December 25 *Nation*, writer Anne Nelson reported that while police officials asserted they were "sure it was suicide," the "preliminary report from the Fire Department describes the death as 'probable homicide.'"

Initially, police told reporters they would investigate to determine if Santana was a suicide or if she had died by accident — an invidious suggestion that she may have killed herself while making incendiary bombs. This smear charge flagrantly contradicts Santana's well-established record of political activity.

The New York cops' attempt to cover up how Santana actually died was given significant backing by the FBI.

Hard on the heels of the police at the

scene of Santana's death were members of the joint FBI-police "terrorist" task force.

Like the police, the FBI too quickly brushed aside the initial Fire Department estimate of a likely murder. A day after Santana's death, the FBI said it was withdrawing from the investigation because "the terrorist task force found nothing suspicious in the circumstances of the death."

Nothing suspicious?

Leave aside the bizarre idea that Santana committed suicide by trying to torch her apartment.

Her activity brought her into conflict with right-wing killers who wouldn't bat an eyelash at murdering an opponent and then covering their trail with arson.

Flor Teresa Santana was born in Cuba in 1945 and was brought to this country by her family as a teenager. She soon became involved in political activity.

In the mid-1970s she was, for a period, a staff writer for the *Daily World*, and its Spanish language counterpart, *Mundo Diario*. She wrote a series of articles exposing the links between the CIA, the Chilean secret police, and counterrevolutionary Cuban exile terrorists.

She became best known, however, for her work in behalf of the Salvadoran revolution.

ES-Info suspended operations recently for lack of funds, but it was widely used by Salvadoran solidarity activists here and abroad as a significant source of information. Writers for the capitalist media also regarded Santana as a valuable news source about El Salvador.

Last year she was responsible for the English subtitled of the Salvadoran film, *Decision to Win*, and worked on promotion and distribution of the film as well.

The murder of Terry Santana was intended to intimidate other activists involved in the fight against U.S. intervention in El Salvador.

On learning of Terry Santana's death, Radio Venceremos, voice of the Salvadoran liberation forces, declared that the Reagan administration bears "direct responsibility."

Considering the support Washington has given the right-wing Salvadoran death squads, the declaration of the rebel radio goes to the political heart of the matter.

U.S. opponents of Washington's aggression in El Salvador cannot afford to permit a whitewash in the Santana case.

FMLN speech at El Salvador rally

Continued from preceding page

We want to avoid the regionalization of the conflict, the Vietnamization of Central America.

But the imperialists refuse to accept the transfer of power to the people.

Because they know very well that the seizure of power by the Salvadoran people means the revolution will be vibrating with ever greater energy in all of the Americas.

And they know the revolution is coming here — soon!

In other words, the unstoppable advance of the peoples of the Americas is what we have before our eyes.

North American solidarity

But why is it that we want the North American people to give us their solidarity? I think that it has already been explained quite well. I'd like to express some points of view on this.

I think there's a natural belief in justice, and a desire for peace among all peoples, and the North American people are no exception.

And we, through the FMLN and the FDR, express those same desires on the part of the Salvadoran people.

Also, because it is your government that is using your money to attack our region.

And we think that if things continue to develop as they are, that it will no longer be only American money that is going to El Salvador, but also American soldiers who will be sent down there.

And finally, as Compañero Larry said, we believe the process of liberation of the Salvadoran people is also part of the process of the liberation of the North American people.

We think the main ways in which the solidarity of the American people can be

expressed are the following:

To take all possible steps to demand that the U.S. government halt its intervention in Central America.

To support all the efforts and proposals for a negotiated settlement that our vanguard is putting forward.

To demand freedom for the political prisoners in El Salvador.

To protest efforts by the Reagan administration to prepare the January certification of the Salvadoran government for supposedly respecting human rights.

Salvadoran refugees

We also have the question of the presence of some half million Salvadoran refugees in this country, above all in California, and especially in Los Angeles.

Besides material support, they need political support, in their fight to get the U.S. government to recognize their status as political refugees in this country.

Also, in the framework of militant support, of proletarian internationalism, we believe all efforts should be made to send economic aid to the Salvadoran people.

The Salvadoran revolution has channels established around the world through which humanitarian aid and political support can be sent. And, since 1982, the Salvadoran revolution has promoted the idea of the World Front in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador as a concrete organizational expression through which the peoples of the world can express their solidarity.

Those are, in summary, the points we would make in the name of the Salvadoran people. "¡Si Nicaragua venció, El Salvador vencerá, y Guatemala lo seguirá!" [If Nicaragua won, El Salvador will win, and Guatemala will follow!]

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UN Afghan vote aids anticommunist drive

BY ERNEST HARSCH

Three years after the beginning of the large-scale Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, the U.S. government and other imperialist powers are continuing to use Moscow's move to fuel their anticommunist propaganda drive and preparations for war.

As the anniversary of the intervention approached, the Reagan administration revived its charges that Soviet troops were using chemical weapons against antigovernment guerrilla forces in Afghanistan. And it once more pressed for passage of a United Nations resolution demanding an immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country. The resolution was passed overwhelmingly, with 114 votes for and 21 against. (Twenty-two countries abstained or failed to vote.)

On the opening day of the debates on the resolution, November 24, U.S. representative Jeanne Kirkpatrick charged that Soviet troops had "committed numerous acts of terrorism against civilians," including the use of "boobytrapped objects, such as toys, cigarette packs and pens." She claimed that there were "47 known chemical attacks in Afghanistan" carried out by the Soviet forces.

These U.S. charges of chemical warfare come despite the release of a detailed UN report concluding that there was no proof of such allegations.

But the U.S.-backed campaign against the Soviet Union and Afghanistan is not limited to propaganda. For several years now — dating from well before the Soviet intervention — Washington has been arming and financing proimperialist guerrilla groups fighting to overthrow the Afghan government.

Washington then used the Soviet intervention to justify increasing its aid to these groups — aid that has been funneled through Pakistan — as well as to step up its military moves throughout the region. Claiming a danger of "Soviet expansionism," and also in reaction to the Iranian revolution, the Pentagon established its Rapid Deployment Force and bolstered its military presence in the Indian Ocean. Within the United States, the Carter administration reintroduced draft registration.

Warm embrace for Zia

Just a week after the UN vote, Pakistani dictator Gen. Zia ul-Haq arrived in Washington for talks with Reagan and other U.S. officials. The discussions, a White House source said, were marked by "openness and warmth."

Reagan praised Zia for providing \$1 million a day to the hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Much of that aid, in fact, has been going toward the arming and training of the rightist guerrilla groups, which are strung out in some 80 bases inside Pakistan, along the Afghan border.

And by not saying a word about Zia's brutal repression of political opponents within Pakistan, Reagan also gave his domestic policies a stamp of approval. Since Zia seized power in a military coup in 1977, his regime has been marked by wholesale arrests of political activists, public floggings, executions, torture, massacres of striking workers, and continued violations of the rights of Pakistan's oppressed nationalities.

In exchange for the Pakistani regime's willingness to protect imperialist interests in Pakistan and implement U.S. policies toward Afghanistan, Reagan reaffirmed a six-year, \$3.2 billion U.S. aid package for the Zia regime, which included 40 F-16 fighter planes delivered to Pakistan just before Zia's arrival in Washington.

During the UN debate, Pakistani representative Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan denied the "baseless allegations that Pakistan's territory is being used for mounting subversive activity inside Afghanistan."

His denial was strictly for the record. Numerous foreign journalists have visited the guerrillas' camps and bases in Pakistan and have accompanied them on military raids into Afghanistan. The Pakistani border guards let them pass unhindered.

U.S. hypocrisy

Washington's hypocritical campaign around Afghanistan did not go unchallenged during the UN debate. Cuban repre-

sentative Raul Roa Kouri blasted "the outright manipulation of the events in Afghanistan by the imperialists of the United States to conceal their cynical support for the worst international forces and to promote their own warmonger policy and to make a smokescreen for their own political and moral crisis."

He reaffirmed Cuba's position of voting against the resolution, so as not to "provide grist for the mill of reaction and imperialism."

The Nicaraguan representative, Jorge Canda Morales, while stating that Nicaragua would abstain on the resolution, also attacked Washington's hypocrisy.

"We are particularly displeased," he said, "to see that one permanent member of the Security Council invokes the sacred principle of the duty to refrain from the threat or use of force against the independence of any State in the case of Afghanistan, but does not apply, or even admit the validity of, that principle where Central America is concerned."

"How can anyone condemn the Soviet presence in Afghanistan but remain silent about the occupation of Namibia and other acts of aggression committed by South Africa against the front-line countries? How can anyone praise the rebellious Moslems in Afghanistan while at the same time supporting those who are killing Moslems, Palestinians and Arabs in the Middle East?"

Difficulties of Afghan government

In Afghanistan itself, the Soviet troops and Afghan government forces have been unable to put down the guerrilla forces, despite three years of concerted military efforts.

Major sweeps by infantry troops and airborne and artillery units through the Panjshir Valley and other regions of the country earlier this year inflicted some major military blows against the rebels. But often the guerrillas have returned to these same areas almost as soon as the government forces have pulled back.

One major reason for the strength and resilience of the guerrillas — besides the imperialist backing that many of them receive through Pakistan — has been the Babrak Karmal regime's political inability to undercut their social base of support within the country.

Many leaders of the guerrilla groups are large landowners, members of the Islamic religious hierarchy, or tribal elders who originally launched the revolt against the central government in opposition to various social reform measures adopted following the April 1978 revolution, such as a land reform and literacy effort.

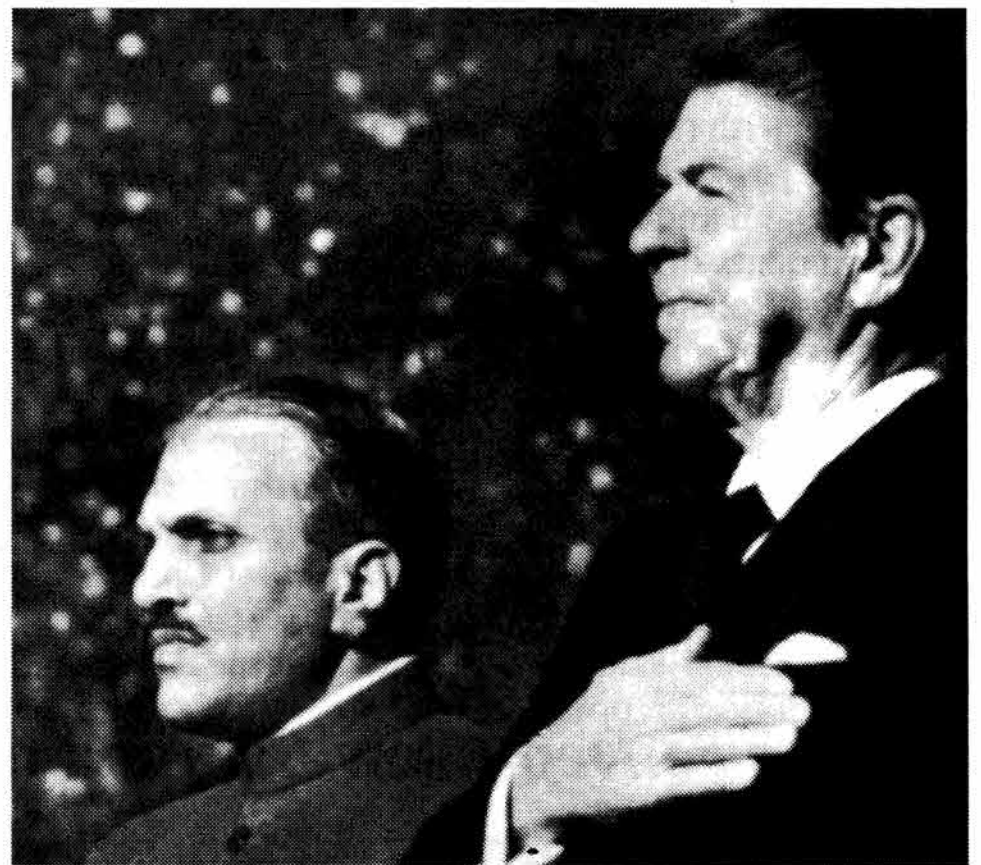
But the reforms were drawn up bureaucratically, and the government's heavy-handed efforts to push them through, without seeking to politically mobilize or organize the population, alienated wide sectors of the peasantry, who make up the overwhelming majority of the population. Internal factional disputes, brutal repression against any form of political dissent, and lack of sensitivity to the interests of Afghanistan's various nationalities left the government politically isolated and made it possible for the rightist and proimperialist groups to exploit the widespread discontent.

Rather than solving these problems, the Soviet intervention has worsened them, giving the civil war an aspect of a popular struggle against foreign occupation. None of Karmal's efforts to win greater popular support has elicited any significant response. The guerrillas are today still able to operate throughout wide sections of the countryside and have even begun to make increasingly frequent attacks into the capital, Kabul.

Seeking negotiations

In this context, new feelers have been put out by various governments involved in the conflict to try to achieve a negotiated settlement.

Although the Pakistani regime had originally refused to have any dealings whatsoever with the Karmal government, since June it has been conducting indirect talks through the intermediary of UN Undersecretary General Diego Cordovez. This reflects concern on Zia's part about the possible political repercussions within Pakistan



Reagan greets Pakistan dictator Gen. Zia. Afghan refugee aid goes into arming right-wing rebels operating out of Pakistan.

of the presence of large numbers of Afghan refugees and of any prolonged conflict with its neighbor.

The Soviet and Afghan governments have repeatedly stated that if the Pakistani regime stopped aiding the guerrillas, that could help foster the conditions for a Soviet withdrawal.

When Zia attended Leonid Brezhnev's funeral in Moscow in November, he met with the new Soviet Communist Party chief, Yuri Andropov. According to Zia, most of the time was spent discussing Afghanistan. During his visit to the United States, Zia publicly stated that he thought Moscow was sincere in seeking a negotiated accord.

Even before the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, Cuban President Fidel Castro, in his capacity as chairman of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, offered to mediate discussions between the Afghan and Pakistani governments. In March 1980, following the Soviet intervention, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca visited Moscow, Kabul, and the Pakistani capital of Islamabad to de-

liver messages to this effect.

Cuban UN Ambassador Roa Kouri, speaking during the General Assembly debate last month, reaffirmed his government's interest "in contributing to . . . the achievement of peace and stability in Southwest Asia on the basis of . . . respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States."

Roa Kouri said that the Cuban government welcomes the informal talks begun under the auspices of UN official Diego Cordovez, but that the General Assembly resolution "does not contribute to that end."

In explaining Nicaragua's abstention on the U.S.-backed resolution, representative Canda Morales stated that while supporting "the need to find a political solution" to the situation in Southwest Asia, his government did not believe that the "flexibility and moderation which are so essential to dialogue and to a political settlement of disputes [are] reflected in the draft resolution before us."

From Intercontinental Press

Cop attack on steelworkers condoned

BY GEORGE JOHNSON

Last November 16, the U.S. Department of Justice notified the United Steelworkers (USWA) of what it intended to do about a bloody and unprovoked cop riot against peaceful strikers in Newport News, Virginia, in April 1979:

Nothing.

The year-end issue of *Steeltalk* said the union was informed by the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division:

"After a careful review of the reports, we have concluded that the incidents investigated lack prosecutive merit. We accordingly have closed our file and intend to take no further action in this matter."

There was no lack of evidence, including depositions, photographs, and TV footage, of the cop riot.

On April 16, 1979, "Bloody Monday," state and local police attacked striking members of USWA Local 8888 on the picket line, in the street, in restaurants, and in their union hall.

The unionists were striking against Tenneco, the giant energy monopoly that owns the large shipyard at Newport News, for their right to be represented by a union of their choice.

Tenneco resisted the USWA bitterly. It had a company union, the Peninsula Shipbuilders Association (PSA), that used goon squads to terrorize pro-USWA workers. And it utilized the technique, common among employers, of trying to wear down the workers through legal delays.

A year after the USWA won an election against the PSA, Tenneco workers struck on January 31, 1979, to force the company

to recognize their union. The company, aided by Virginia's antiunion "right to work" laws, hired almost a thousand strikebreakers and had the services of state and local cops.

On April 16 the cops went wild. Sixty-three Local 8888 members were arrested. At least 30 Steelworkers were hospitalized with injuries at the hands of the cops.

Unionists were savagely beaten and thrown through plate-glass doors.

Unionists were jailed and fined. The city council refused to listen to Local 8888's charges.

But the unionists were not cowed. They reformed their ranks on Bloody Monday after the cop riot and refused to be driven from the streets.

Tenneco was forced to retreat. While the company victimized more strikers and continued its legal foot-dragging, by the end of March 1980 the workers had won a contract.

It was an inspiring labor victory in the weakly organized South and was won by the solidarity and militancy of the union's ranks, which overcame Tenneco's attempts to pit white against Black workers.

The November ruling by the Justice Department, which carried out its investigation under both the Carter and Reagan administrations, will embolden those who want to destroy Local 8888.

Indeed, that was its purpose, Local 8888 member Eli Green told the *Militant*. He reports that the procompany PSA has been distributing anti-USWA material to workers weekly since the ruling.

'Cop never said a word . . . just shot him'

The following speech was given by Jackie Floyd to the Political Rights Defense Fund rally held in Chicago December 30 during the weekend of the Young Socialist Alliance national convention. Floyd is a member of the YSA in Miami.

I am very glad to be speaking here tonight to tell you the truth about the brutal murder of Nevell Johnson and the rebellion that has started in the Overtown section of Miami.

I first heard about the rebellion Tuesday night, just minutes before I was planning to board a plane for Chicago and this convention.

I immediately left the airport and went straight to Overtown to see what had happened and what people were doing.

The incident that sparked the rebellion was the brutal murder of Nevell Johnson, a 20-year-old Black man who was shot by a City of Miami police officer in a video game room on Third Avenue.

According to people I talked with and eyewitness reports in the newspapers, two officers walked into the video arcade at about 6 p.m. Tuesday night. One of them walked up to Nevell, put one hand on his shoulder and put his gun to Nevell's head. Nevell turned around in surprise, and the cop shot him in the head. The bullet blasted in above his left eye and exited through the top of his skull.

The officer never said a word to Nevell. He just shot him.

Then the officer shouted, "Everybody get out. Somebody's got a gun." People ran out in fear for their lives. And when they looked back in later, Nevell was lying on the floor. Suddenly a gun had appeared in his hand. No one had seen the gun before. And friends of Nevell who were with him, said that he didn't have a gun at all.

Who was Nevell Johnson?

He was a 20-year-old resident of Overtown. He worked as a courier for Dade County. He was not an unemployed hooligan as the news media tries to present young men in Overtown.

He was well respected by his co-workers and supervisors, who cried when they heard of his death. He enjoyed playing Pac-Man and often went to the game room on Third Avenue.

This was only the latest of many brutal murders by the Miami police.

All of you, I am sure, remember the killing of Arthur McDuffie by a gang of police in 1980.

This time, as in Liberty City two years ago, people in Overtown gathered in rage over the murder. Many knew Nevell and were shocked over his murder. They began throwing rocks and bottles at the police, set a police car afire, and forced the cops to retreat from the game room.

The police responded by calling in SWAT teams and hundreds of riot-equipped officers. This only made people angrier and the rebellion spread.

For most of the last two days, the people have kept the police out of Overtown, forcing them back to a perimeter along Seventh Avenue and North Miami Avenue. Young protesters burned at least seven police cars and a Miami Transit Authority bus and repeatedly drove the police back out of Overtown.

I want to say a few things about the people of Overtown.

Overtown is perhaps the most economically depressed area of Miami. It is the oldest Black neighborhood in Miami. But when they put the expressways through in the 1960s, they evicted thousands of people and forced many businesses to close

and they moved the schools away. It has a large concentration of public housing. But many of the houses are not fit for human habitation. And it is located right next to downtown with all the fancy shops and hotels.

The newspapers, on the other hand, try to present the people in Overtown as hooligans, as mobs. Overtown is poor. But it is mostly workers and their families who live there — longshoremen, garment workers, farm laborers, metrobus workers, city and county workers.

Many of them have had similar terrifying experiences with the cops. They know that they could all have been Nevell Johnson.

It was the youth — 15, 16, and 17-year-old youth — who took the lead in the rebellion against the police, supported by the older workers who poured into the streets, cheering as the police cars burned and ex-

ploded.

Today Overtown is still cordoned off by the police. This is imposing a real hardship on the people. They have cut off bus service, so people can't get to work or to shop. They can't get back home without being stopped by shotgun-toting riot police and being forced to prove that they live there. They have cut off sales of gasoline and liquor there.

At least 29 people have been arrested by the police — people who will be framed-up on all sorts of charges, while the police, government, and newspapers try to take attention off the real crime — the murder of Nevell Johnson.

That is why I am so glad to be able to talk about Overtown to this Political Rights Defense Fund rally.

This is just one more example of the outrages committed everyday by the police forces in this country. It is their most se-

vere violation of the basic human right of all working people — the right to live.

Some of the TV reports have shown so-called Black leaders saying that the problem is white cops or Latino cops — that the solution is to get more Black cops on the streets. But the people in Overtown drove out the Black cops as fast as the white cops.

When I was talking with my friends in Overtown, and watched the police cars burn, I kept thinking of the rebels in Nicaragua and El Salvador, who fought, and fight, to get rid of the whole system that oppresses them. That is what the rebels in Overtown want to do.

I urge all of you to tell the truth about Overtown when you go home. Don't let the police cover up their crimes. Fight to defend the brothers and sisters who have been arrested over the last two days. And join us to fight against all the attacks upon our human and political rights.

Why Miami Black community rebelled

Continued from Page 20

the police department and special riot training was carried out. Police practice exercises have been carried out frequently in Black neighborhoods.

One of the results of the 1980 rebellion was the hiring of Howard Gary, a Black man who grew up in Liberty City, as Miami's city manager. The job supposedly puts him in charge of the police. But Gary's office has not changed things.

The Anglo and Cuban businessmen of the Chamber of Commerce applauded Gary's handling of the rebellion in Overtown. But the Overtown rebels are drawing different conclusions about him and some of the crumbs they have been offered since the last rebellion.

Officials denounce rebels

On January 6 a meeting was held in Overtown with the supposed purpose of letting young people get together and say what they were thinking. But, instead of letting the youths talk, the city officials, cops, and the heads of some community groups, tried to use the meeting to lecture them. The officials denounced the rebellion and attacked the young rebels.

The young people there responded by blasting these officials and shouted them down. As one youth said, "When the cops see three or more young Black guys standing on the corner or in a park, they drive over and make us move on. Who are they to come in here and hassle us? It's our damn park and this is our damn community."

This comment was made to the cheers and applause of 150 young Black rebels.

Another man at the meeting yelled to Black police official Perry Anderson, "I know you. I went to junior high school and sat next to you in school. Now you're wearing a three-piece suit, have three houses, and are telling us to keep quiet. Well I'm wearing overalls and haven't had a job in a year."

The so-called community leaders ended the meeting early. The following day they announced the memorial march that had been called for January 8, the day of Johnson's funeral, was canceled. The 150 angry young people who had showed up at the January 6 meeting convinced the "leaders" that they could not lead.

At the funeral, 1,000 people packed the Caleb Center Auditorium in Liberty City. Some cried in their grief. Others were silent in their anger.

The Johnson family announced it was giving \$1,000 that had been donated to them to the family of Alonzo Singleton whose death during the rebellion has received much less notice than Nevell Johnson's.

Why was Johnson killed?

Nevell Johnson was not being chased by the cops. He was not under investigation. He was not accused of any crime. Alvarez does not even claim that he was trying to arrest him.

Alvarez is a known racist thug. He's been cited in complaints after physically attacking a Black Cuban and calling him a nigger.

The police, city officials, and even some Black community spokespeople are defending Alvarez. City Manager Gary refuses to fire him and insists that many investigations are needed before any action is taken. Police Chief Kenneth Harms defended Alvarez's actions as "appropriate training of a new recruit."

The story being floated is that Alvarez's gun accidentally went off. The police "union" in Miami has hired a high-priced lawyer to defend Alvarez if he is ever charged.

But the murder was not just the act of a mad, racist cop. It was part of what police are trained to do. The purpose of the police is to maintain a reign of terror in the Black community and defend big business and private property against workers.

Victims and criminals

While Luis Alvarez, a racist, cold-blooded killer is still a gun-carrying cop, the victim, his family, and his neighbors are being made to look like criminals. A newspaper headline reported that Nevell Johnson had once been arrested. It was also reported that Nevell's father had once been arrested. If they keep searching they may learn that being arrested by the cops is almost a normal part of being Black in America.

The Overtown rebels themselves are not confused about who are the victims and who are the criminals. Discussions with people on the streets and in that same video arcade where Nevell Johnson was shot, show that people are thinking about the broader picture of how the killings and the rebellion fit into the problem of jobs, housing, wars, and racism.

The importance of the relationship between the rebellion and the conditions in the Black community was underlined when Reagan appeared on television to denounce the rebellion and anybody who admitted that the Black community suffers from poverty and oppression.

Young people seeing white cameramen attempting to film the rebellion from the edge of a government facility shouted "The revolution will not be televised."

Others shouted, "Don't you people hire Black cameramen?"

As a young Latino family walked toward the crowd, one person said, "Look at those crackers walking through here. We should attack them." Another person responded, "No man. They're Puerto Ricans. They catch as much hell as we do. They live around here."

Many older Overtown residents watched the mostly teenage rebels fighting the cops and expressed admiration, cheering them on. People moved from corner to corner as word spread that there was action occurring in another area. It was obvious that there were leaders in each group of attacking rebels. They would stop occasionally, huddling in the street to discuss what should be done. Some radios were used that had probably been obtained from captured police cars.

Instead of being terrorized, young Black rebels stood up to the cops and drove some terror back into the hearts of the ruling rich

in Miami and the rest of the country.

The traditional Black leaders — those the rulers use to keep calm in the Black community — were swept aside. Their pleas for peace were ignored by the rebels.

But the cops attacked the whole Black community. Even City Manager Howard Gary was hassled by cops who weren't convinced of his identity.

PUSH leader William Perry was shoved to the ground and a shotgun pointed at his chest by one cop.

Even the most minimal demands raised by leaders of the Black community groups are being ignored such as the demand to fire killer Alvarez and to fire Police Chief Harms.

Other demands have been raised. More Black cops should be hired, funds be provided for community and cultural projects and other programs.

'Barbarians'

At the same time calm and patience is being urged. Wait for the official investigations, we are being told.

The U.S. Justice Department has begun one of the many investigations. It already shows what we can expect. Rudolph Giuliani was put in charge by Reagan. This supposedly unbiased representative of the federal government appeared on ABC television "Nightline" program December 29 where he referred to the Overtown rebels as "barbarians."

There are many young rebels in Miami who are learning that justice is something that has to be won in struggle. It's the same lesson freedom fighters have learned in other countries. And from Vietnam to Cuba and to El Salvador and Grenada, the rebels have always been denounced by those who fear them as barbarians. It shows they are scared. It puts us barbarians in good company.

Militant forum in Overtown

There will be a public forum Saturday, January 22, at 4 p.m. in the Culmer Overtown Community Center, 1600 N.W. Third Ave. in Overtown.

The forum is to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, protest the murder of Nevell Johnson, and discuss what our political response should be. The title is "For Justice in Overtown. Against Reagan's war in Central America: Our war is at home."

There will be a talk about Dr. King and the civil rights movement, a first-hand report from Nicaragua, a talk by a Haitian activist about the struggle against Duvalier and about the situation of Haitians in Miami. A film will be shown about the war in El Salvador, and the facts will be presented about the murder of Nevell Johnson and other victims of police terror in Miami.

Spanish and Creole translation will be available at the meeting. The forum is sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (305) 769-3478 in Miami.

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THE GREAT SOCIETY

A bright future — The current jobless rate may be 10.8 percent, but not to worry. The undersecretary of commerce says the eco-



Harry Ring

nomy is close enough to "see the whites of the eyes of recovery." He amplified, "If we get the unemployment rate down to 10 per-

cent by the end of 1983, that would be about what one would expect with a moderate recovery."

Food for thought — We don't know how many hot school meals it would buy, but last year, \$89.7 million was allocated for U.S. military bands.

Funny how these things work — When wholesale prices go up, the retailer has to pass it on to the consumer, right? But when they go down? Well, despite the recession, food profits jumped 47 percent year-to-year in the last quarter of 1982. An analyst explained this was due to declining wholesale

costs and "a favorable pricing environment."

Just relax and register — "I have found the people on the boards to be very sensitive, very humanistic. We know we're dealing with human beings; we won't be just rushing people off to get a gun in their hands." — A Chicago-area draft board member.

Supply sider — The White House has full confidence in Thomas Reed, a former air force secretary and now a national security adviser to the prez. Critics are bleating that he improperly used inside info merely because,

in 48 hours, he parlayed \$3,000 in stock options into \$430,000.

From the mouths of babes and fools . . . — "May the future bring all the best to you and your family and friends, and should your mother never find out where you work." — Farewell remarks of a retired member of Congress.

Diet dep't (I) — Obesity problem? Try a custom fitted acupuncture earpiece, \$175. Pop it in before meal time and it will curb your appetite. Use the form, cut your calories by a third, and the company guarantees you'll lose weight.

Diet dep't (II) — Another device which sounds good to us, and but \$19.95, is a pair of glasses with one brown lens and one blue one. This induces a low level of subconscious confusion, causing the user to eat less. If the feds hadn't confiscated them, the promoter could have paraphrased an old folk saying, making it, "Don't know whether to eat or go blind."

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CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

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Introduction to Socialism Class Series. Reagan's War on Women's Rights. Sat., Jan. 22, 11 a.m.; The Communist Manifesto, Sat., Jan. 29, 11 a.m.; and America's Road to Socialism, Sat., Feb. 5, 11 a.m. 1043A Broadway. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party. For more information call (408) 899-4732 or 373-8347.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

How Jim Crow Was Defeated: Lessons for Today. Speaker: Chris Hoeppner, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

History and Lessons of the Civil Rights Movement. Speaker: Marie Cobbs, member Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks Lodge 679, 1982 Socialist Workers candidate for governor. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m. 555 W Adams. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 559-9046.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

From Montgomery to Memphis A film on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. accompanied by a brief talk on "What's needed in 1983." Speaker: Valerie Eckart, Socialist Workers Party 1982 candidate for Congress in 9th District. Sun., Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave. (Kenmore T stop) Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

Reception for Grenadian Ambassador to UN, Caldwell Taylor. Speakers: Caldwell Taylor; State Representative Mel King; Jean Claude Martineau, Haitian poet; special performance by Little Flagg Theatre. Sat., Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m. Church of All Nations, 333 Tremont St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: U.S.-Grenada Solidarity Committee. For more information call (617) 354-6687 or 232-4222.

ity Committee. For more information call (617) 354-6687 or 232-4222.

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Kansas City

Why Can't Everyone Have Heat? Speakers: Rev. Sam Mann, activist in Citizen-Labor Committee for Safe Energy; Bob Kutchko, Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate, member of National Association of Letter Carriers. Sun., Jan. 16; dinner, 7 p.m.; forum, 8 p.m. 4715A Troost. Donation: \$3.50; forum only, \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

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SEPTA vs. the Rail Unions: Rail Workers Speak Out. Speakers to be announced. Sat., Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m. 5811 N Broad St. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (215) 927-4747.

TEXAS

San Antonio

Religion and Revolution: Role of the Religious Movement in Today's Revolutions. Speakers: Father Balty Janacek, pastor of Christ the King Church; Rev. Dan Long, Methodist Hispanic Ministries; Tom Mauer, Socialist Workers Party, member International Union of Electrical Workers Local 780. Fri., Jan. 21, 8 p.m. 337 W Josephine. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (512) 736-9218.

Defend Women's Right to Abortion

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Abortion Rights Under Attack: How to Defend Them. Speakers: representative, Planned Parenthood; representative, Feminist Womens Health Center; Susie Winsten, Young Socialist Alliance and member, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. Sat., Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m. 504 Flat Shoals. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

The Right to Abortion and the Struggle for Women's Rights. Speaker: Holly Harkness, member United Garment Workers and Young Socialist Alliance. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m. 555 W Adams. Donation: \$2.50. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 559-9046.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

A Decade of Choice: Defend and Extend Abortion Rights. A rally at the state capitol. Sat., Jan. 22; assemble, 6:15 p.m.; march, 6:30 p.m. Ausp: National Organization for Women. For more information call (612) 644-7496.

Abortion Rights Under Attack: How to Fight Back. Speakers: Pat Bellanger, activist in American Indian Movement and Women of All Red Nations; Lisa Ahlberg, Young Socialist Alliance, member of Teamsters Local 289; Carla Whittington, president, Twin Cities NOW. Sun., Jan. 23, 4 p.m. 508 N Snelling. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum and Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

OHIO

Cleveland

Abortion Rights Under Attack: Panel Discussion. Speakers: Pat Mitchell, editor, Cleveland State Univ. *Vindicator*; Linda Slodki, Young Socialist Alliance. Fri., Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m. 2230 Superior Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (216) 791-9901.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee

Benefit for Abortion Rights. Singersong writer, Kristin Lems. Fri., Jan. 21, 7 p.m. Century Hall, 2340 N Farwell Ave. Donation: \$5.50. Ausp: Women's Medical Fund. For more information call (414) 278-0260.

Baby freezes; jobless father blamed

BY SUE ADLEY

DENVER — Seven-month-old Holly Reed froze to death December 3 in the car that had been her family's home for several months.

The baby's father, Michael Anthony Reed, lost his job at a fast-food restaurant last summer, becoming one of more than 40,000 unemployed people in the Denver metropolitan area.

Waiting tables at the White Spot restaurant, as Lonila Reed did, wasn't enough to support the family of three. But the young couple didn't want to go on welfare or burden their relatives. So they got along as best they could on their own, living out of their Toyota while Reed looked for work.

A deputy district attorney is considering charging Reed with child-abuse homicide. Reed cannot meet the \$50,000 bail.

This winter will be dismal and dangerous for many who are without heat in their homes — or without homes.

Last week the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, after considering the matter for 15 minutes, ruled that old people who cannot pay their bills will face having their heat cut off this winter.

A few months ago, a young, pregnant woman who was destitute was killed while sleeping under a Denver bridge.

The next time an old person dies of exposure because their heat was cut off for nonpayment, or members of a homeless family freeze in their car, will their survivors be indicted?

I would rather see the owners of Public Service Company and the utilities commissioners in jail. Or the owners of industry who are throwing us out of work because it's not profitable for them to produce what we need. Or the federal government officials who refuse to release a surplus building in downtown Denver for emergency shelter.

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Garment workers discuss fight against concessions

BY ELLEN HAYWOOD

NEW YORK — I am a sewing machine operator in Brooklyn and a new member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) Local 23-25, which is the largest local of this union.

One day a couple of months ago, the boss calls the hundred or so women and men over to tell us he isn't go-

UNION TALK

ing to give us the 35 cent an hour raise we are entitled to beginning November 29 as part of our new contract. He says he knows he signed the contract agreeing to this raise last July but he just doesn't have the money. Business is slow, he says, as if we don't realize that.

Most of us are experiencing a layoff of at least one day a week and the short check that goes with it. Everyday we come in and look to see what the cutter is doing, how much work will be coming out, and wonder if we will get sent home today and for how long.

A few women look sympathetic as the boss sobs on. Most of us, however, are stonefaced. We are the ones who have worked the first six months of this new contract without a raise. We are the ones facing hard times.

The union sent a letter on November 16 to all its members advising them of the wage increase and other benefits contained in our new contract. It says, "These gains are provided by the new union contract which was

settled in July after a six-week struggle with the employers which climaxed in the tremendous membership rallies we held in Columbus Park."

This struggle centered in Chinatown where many of the bosses refused to sign the contract negotiated in July. Thousands of union members were mobilized to participate in the marches and rallies that took place on several occasions. Although our boss signed the contract, one of my co-workers told me that during those six weeks the union had prepared our shop to go out on strike if it became necessary to help win the contract for our other sisters and brothers.

The letter further explained, "During the struggle, you and thousands of other members of Local 23-25 united to fight for a fair contract. But our success is not complete. To make sure that every member receives the rights and benefits we won, every member must know what's in our contract, and make sure the contract is enforced."

Our boss told us he hadn't talked to the union about not giving us our raise. Then he launched into a big attack on our union. He tried to blame everything on the union officials. He said they were not interested in the problems of the workers in the shop but only in their own careers. He said he would allow us to meet 10 or 15 minutes before the end of the workday to decide what we were going to do.

So 10 minutes before the end of the day we gathered at one end of the shop. Of the hundred workers many do not speak English. Some speak only Italian, Chinese, or Spanish. The union chairlady only speaks English and

was shy about getting the meeting organized so we could all understand and participate in the discussion.

Everyone was standing around talking in smaller groups in whatever language they understood best. We were very angry and we knew we couldn't let the boss get away with this violation of our contract. But we were trying to figure out if we should walk out now with the industry so slow and holidays approaching.

Several members tried to get everyone to settle down into one discussion. They convinced the union chairlady to stand up on a table so she could talk to all the workers. She asked us what we wanted to do. She said times were real bad now and suggested we might want to just keep on working until June when the contract entitled us to another raise.

But the vast majority did not want to let the boss get away with another six-month wage freeze. Some women felt he did have the money now for our raise. Most felt that if we gave into him this time we wouldn't get the raise in June either.

Finally a group of workers decided they thought the best thing was to work until February and if we didn't get the raise then, to walk out.

It seems that what happened at our shop might be a pattern in the garment industry. It's the bosses' way of trying to implement a Chrysler-type takeback contract. Our big challenge will be to figure out how to mobilize the entire strength of our membership in all shops. To do this, many new leaders will have to come forward from the rank and file to take responsibility for organizing a militant fight to defend our contract and our union.

Big rebellion by Oriental Jews shakes Tel Aviv

BY WILL REISSNER

Israel's record of repression against the Palestinian people is well-known to world public opinion. But less well-understood is the fact that Israel is a discriminatory and class-divided society that victimizes Jews as well as Arabs.

Jews of European origin, known as Ashkenazim, dominate Israeli society. But nearly two-thirds of Israel's 3.4 million Jewish inhabitants come from Arab countries. These Arab Jews — often referred to as Oriental Jews — are locked into a position of second-class citizens, discriminated against in housing, education, and jobs.

The frustration and alienation of these Arab Jews was starkly illustrated by five days of protests that rocked Tel Aviv in late December.

The unrest broke out December 23 when police killed a young Jew whose family had come from Yemen. Shimon Yehoshua, 26, was killed while trying to prevent a municipal bulldozer from leveling a one-room addition that his 19-member family had built onto their three-room slum dwelling.

Following the police shooting, enraged Arab Jews went through wealthy Ashkenazi neighborhoods in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem painting antipolice and anti-Ashkenazi slogans on homes, cars, and public buildings.

The slogans included "End the oppres-

sion" and "The Police are murderers." One, referring to Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat's nickname, said "Chich the Ashkenazi, We'll Finish With You Soon."

Others indicated the extreme degree of alienation among Oriental Jews. According to the December 29 *New York Times*, the slogan "Ashkenazim to Auschwitz, Treblinka, and Dachau" — three Nazi concentration camps — was painted on the wall of the Jerusalem Theater.

A number of automobiles and houses in wealthy Ashkenazi neighborhoods were reportedly defaced with swastikas.

Oriental Jewish youths also blocked a main road in Tel Aviv with burning tires and threw stones at passing vehicles.

A reporter from the Hebrew newspaper *Ha'aretz* wrote that young people from the Yehoshua family's neighborhood told him they had stockpiled large amounts of weapons and ammunition.

"We'll start defending ourselves with real weapons," one young man told the reporter. "The entire city now will go up in flames, from the match that Shlomo Lahat lit."

When large-scale immigration to Israel by Jews from Arab countries began in the 1950s, most Oriental Jews were shunted into isolated, newly built "development towns" or into big-city ghettos. To this day they remain concentrated in ghettos in the

most impoverished areas of the country.

Many of the development towns relied on government-subsidized industries to provide jobs for their inhabitants. But with the severe economic crisis that has wracked Israel in recent years — marked by annual inflation of more than 100 percent and reduced government social spending — subsidies for these industries have been slashed, and many development towns have been left without jobs.

Charlie Bitton, a 32-year old Jew from Morocco who is a member of Israel's parliament, told a January 7 press conference in New York that "although Arab Jews make up 62 percent of Israel's Jewish popula-

tion, we are only 4 percent of the entering classes in the universities and only 2 percent of the university graduates."

Bitton, who leads Israel's Black Panther Party, views the Arabic-speaking Jews as a potential bridge between Arabs and Jews in the region. "Arabs of the Jewish religion," he explained, "lived in Arab countries for centuries in peace and equality. But when we came to Israel we found ourselves second-class citizens."

Bitton met with Yassir Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organization two years ago in Bulgaria, and he met again with PLO representatives in New York on his recent trip.

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The fight to stop foreclosures

Growing numbers of working people face the threat that their home or farm will be placed on the auction block in the near future. This danger is justifiably generating widespread alarm. According to a recent Harris poll, 66 percent of a national sample reported fear of losing their homes or farms within a year for failure to meet mortgage payments. Farm foreclosures rose 240 percent in the past year, and home foreclosures are the highest in 30 years.

As unemployment continues to rise and interest rates remain high, workers and farmers find it more and more difficult to make their mortgage payments. And the banks, backed up by the government, won't accept non-payment. They're in business to make profits.

In response to this worsening situation, protests are mounting across the country to halt mortgage foreclosures. Three actions, just in the first few days of 1983, serve to highlight the anger and determination of the protesters and the savage means that are used by government officials against them.

• On January 3, workers won a victory in the Pittsburgh area when the Allegheny County sheriff withdrew 42 owner-occupied homes from a list of properties that were to be sold to pay back taxes and past-due loan payments. Hard-hit by unemployment, workers in Pittsburgh face a foreclosure rate that's jumped 225 percent in the past five years.

Protests by unemployed workers in the area for the past three months forced this action by the sheriff. Demonstrations organized by the Mon Valley Unemployment Committee, which includes several steel and electrical workers unions, have been held at the last three monthly sheriff's sales in Pittsburgh to prevent foreclosures by banks. Under this pressure County Judge Nicholas Papadakos backed the sheriff's action. This success will give a boost to unemployed workers in scores of other cities.

• On January 4, 500 farmers converged on Springfield, Colorado, to protest the foreclosure of a farm on which the last two mortgage payments had not been met. The farmers were clubbed and tear gassed by a sheriff's posse and two were jailed. The American Agriculture Movement, which organized the action, has pledged to continue the fight to stop foreclosures (see article on page 1).

• On January 6, 75 farmers drove their tractors into London, Ohio, and staged a 10-hour protest in front of the Production Credit Association (PCA). They forced the PCA to agree to renegotiate a \$400,000 mortgage on a farm that was about to be foreclosed. The action was organized by the Family Farm Movement, a farmer's coalition that has been growing rapidly in Ohio.

These three actions show the growing reliance on direct action as workers and farmers get fed up with waiting for Democratic and Republican politicians to help them. They are taking matters into their own hands. And they are employing a wide range of ingenious tactics to try to prevent foreclosures and force the creditors to renegotiate new terms of payment and to get government bodies to declare a moratorium on mortgage foreclosures.

Among other tactics, farmers are conducting "penny auctions," a tactic from the 1930s. With this approach farmers don't actually stop a foreclosure sale. They only permit bids of a few pennies from the neighbors of the farmer being foreclosed. Whoever purchases it sells it back to its owner for a few cents.

The moneylenders and their flunkies, however, don't like these militant methods and this growing independence. One economist with the Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas complained to a *Newsweek* reporter that the "penny auction" tactic used by farmers in many states is "very much a strong-arm technique" rooted in a growing "us-or-them mentality."

It's precisely this recognition by working people that there is an "us" and "them" that the exploiters fear. It registers an important step forward in advancing the kind of

movement that will be necessary to put an end to the exploiting policies of the big banks and the monopolies.

And the "us" means both workers and working farmers, because as the mortgage protests show we face a similar problem, and we confront the same "them."

This enemy has massive forces of repression, from the army to the local police, to back up its interests. It is the "strong-arm" measures used by the sheriff's posse in Colorado that show why workers and farmers need to organize a massive, independent, and fighting movement with the strength to defeat our oppressors.

The banks, government agencies, and the Democratic and Republican politicians argue that working people who fail to meet their mortgage payments no longer have a legal right to their homes and farms.

One of the legal beagles for the banks in Pittsburgh told the Associated Press that he thought the sheriff should not have backed down to the protesters. "Somebody has to pay," he exclaimed. "Nothing's for free these days. It's a distasteful part of anybody's life. It's not what I enjoy doing, but other people have rights in this and they have to be protected."

This gets to the heart of the matter: whose rights come first, those of the profiteers and the real estate sharks, or those of people who work for a living.

Unemployed workers *should* have the right to live in their homes without being evicted.

And these rights are higher than any prerogatives of the banks, the Federal Home Administration, or any other lending agency. All mortgage foreclosures of farms and owner-occupied homes should be immediately stopped. The struggle for the immediate relief of a moratorium on all mortgage foreclosures demands the full support of all working people and their organizations. The labor movement ought to put its muscle behind this struggle.

An effective struggle for a moratorium can lay the basis for fighting for longer-run relief from the entire lending and mortgage policies that plague working people today.

A new government loan policy should be instituted that would:

- Guarantee low-interest loans for working farmers with priority to those who are the most needy.
- Not demand that family farmers or homeowners have to put up their land and machinery or owner-occupied homes as collateral in order to obtain loans. This is the principal mechanism by which their farms and homes are taken away from them.
- Halt eviction of tenant farmers who can't pay their rents.
- Stop real estate speculation and parasitic profiteering by outlawing the renting and selling of land. When a farm family, through its own voluntary decision, no longer wants to continue farming or to pass the farm on to the next generation, the farm should become public property.

All of these measures would effectively eliminate the parasitic rents and mortgages system that presently oppresses working farmers and urban workers. It would get rid of one of the means by which the banks hold farmers in bondage.

To carry through and enforce these measures, it will require a government that truly respects the rights and interests of workers and farmers. The present government run by the Democrats and Republicans has proven that it doesn't.

The struggle to institute measures in our interests, therefore, points to and is interconnected with the fight to replace the present government with one of workers and farmers. To carry through such a momentous transformation, militant workers and farmers fighting to defend their rights and a decent living will have to forge their own political party — a labor party based on the unions that will involve at all levels of its activities exploited farmers.

The fight against anti-Semitism: two traditions

BY DAVID FRANKEL

On January 4 the *New York Times* reported on the dissolution of a commission of prominent American Jews that had been set up to examine the record of Jewish organizations in the United States in regard to the annihilation of European Jews by the Nazis during World War II.

A draft introduction to the report planned by the commission described the failure of major American Jewish groups to demand that the U.S. government open the doors to Jews fleeing Europe. This accurate historical account, however, was attacked by a number of prominent Jewish leaders. Their opposition led to the dissolution of the commission.

There were two reasons for this default. One is explained by the commission. The Zionist organizations,

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

the commission's draft report explained, were "riveted to postwar plans" for the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine. Zionist leaders feared that a campaign to lift the restrictions on immigration into the United States would cut across Jewish immigration into Palestine, and they therefore opposed any such campaign.

David Ben-Gurion, later to be Israel's first prime minister, summed up this view in December 1938 by saying: "If we allow a separation between the refugee problem and the Palestine problem, we are risking the existence of Zionism."

But there was a second reason why many Jewish leaders who were not Zionists at that time were willing to go along with the criminal immigration quotas. The leaders of the main Jewish organizations were supporters of President Franklin Roosevelt, and of the capitalist system that Roosevelt represented. They were opposed to the kind of political fight that would have been necessary to expose the acquiescence of the U.S. government in the slaughter of the European Jews, and to force the lifting of Washington's quotas on immigration.

Such a political fight was advocated by the *Socialist Appeal*, a predecessor of the *Militant*. As an October 29, 1938 editorial, titled "Open the Doors!" explained:

"The only real answer to the barbarism practiced by the reactionary capitalists in the name of national culture, is the mobilization of working class forces on the basis of international solidarity against all class and national oppression."

"By making their power felt in warding off the blows of reaction delivered against the oppressed of other countries, the American workers at the same time mobilize their strength to defeat similar attempts at oppression at home."

Responding to the Zionist argument that the solution was to demand that Britain allow Jewish refugees to enter Palestine (but not Britain!), the editorial declared that American workers needed to make "forceful demands not on the British government which need not and will not pay the slightest attention, but on 'their own' government. We must demand the open door for refugees not merely in far-away Palestine, but here at home in the United States."

"Organize the masses around this demand for the open door and this demand will make itself felt! For the abolition of the new quota law and for the reestablishment of the United States as a haven for political refugees!"

Other editorials in the *Socialist Appeal* answered arguments such as the claim that immigration would cause more unemployment. A December 3, 1938, editorial also answered the argument that the admission of large numbers of Jewish refugees, or a campaign for their asylum, would fan anti-Semitism in the United States — an argument used by Zionist leaders to this day to justify their record.

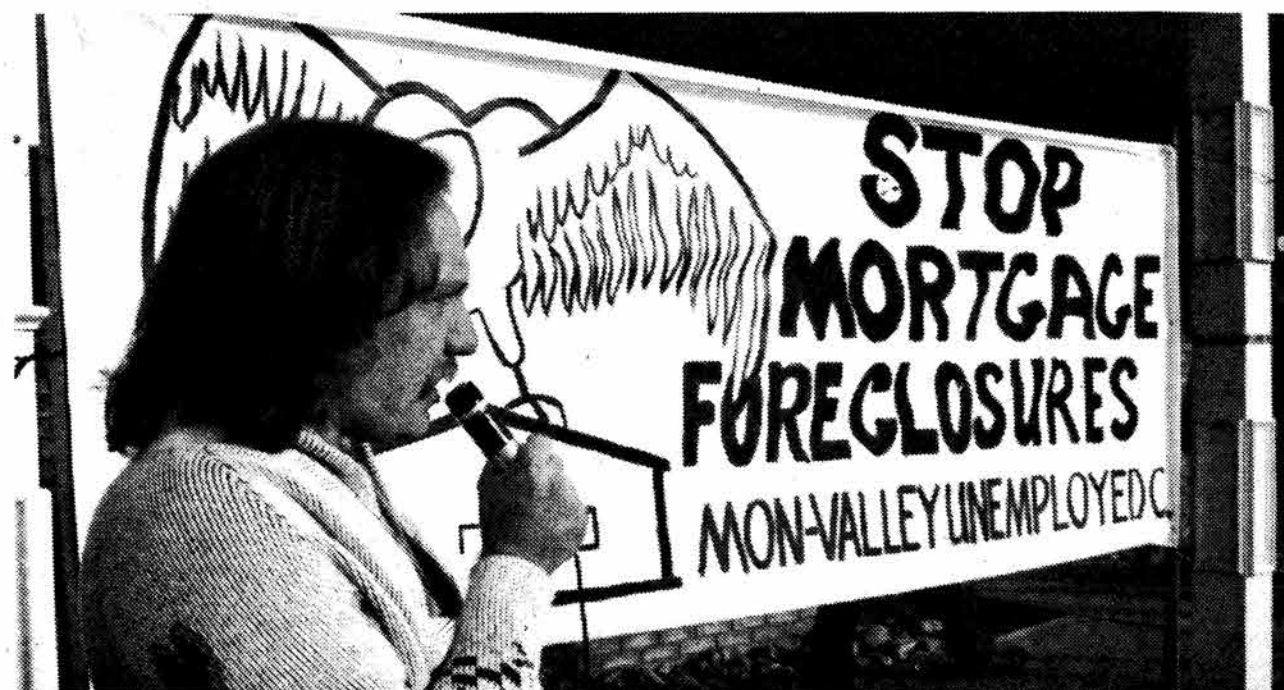
As the *Socialist Appeal* explained, "fighting for and carrying through the demand to admit the refugees is today the most effective blow that could be struck against anti-Semitism."

"Anti-Semitism arises out of the needs of decaying capitalism, not from the attitude of the Jews. There is no doubt that it is making headway in this country."

"But it will not retire if the Jews try to hide their head in the sand. It will, as reaction always does, grow stronger at the weakness of its opponents."

The alternative, the editorial said, was "a firm and unambiguous battle" that would serve as a rallying point for all of the progressive forces in American society. The Zionists and liberals refused to conduct such a fight. And as recent events show, they are still afraid of any honest examination of their record in this regard.

For further information on this issue see *Socialists and the Fight Against Anti-Semitism*, by Peter Seidman, \$0.60, Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, New York 10014. Please include \$0.75 for handling and postage.



Racists warned, 'We will fight you and will win'

"You might say that the so-called anti-Klan rally and riot in Washington, D.C. — resplendent with young Black hooligans stealing bicycles, of all things — could, more aptly be called a 'Vote for Reagan Rally.'"

This is not the opinion of a pro-Reagan racist or Klan supporter. It is instead the carefully considered comment



BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY Malik Miah

of Tony Brown, a prominent Black newspaper and television journalist. In his December 10 nationally syndicated column, "Why Klan Won The Riot," Brown takes to task the 1,500 to 2,000 young Black, Latino, Palestinian, and radical-minded white demonstrators for participating in a counterdemonstration against the KKK on November 27.

The Klan had scheduled a march and rally, the first one since 1925, in the capital. Thirty-six racists showed up. They were outnumbered 40 to 1 by the counterprotesters.

However, the robed ones were being defended by the "law and order" of D.C.'s finest. The cops not only escorted the Klan to their rally — in fact a press conference — they also rioted against the peaceful counterdemonstrators. (See December 10 and 17 *Militants* for full details.)

Despite attempts by leading Black Democrats to keep people away from the anti-Klan action, the protest was so large that the Klan and their cop backers had to cancel their march — a victory for the antiracist demonstrators.

Brown, however, turns the victims into the criminals. Instead of blasting the Klan and their racist cop backers, Brown charges the counterprotesters with provoking and organizing a riot. He goes so far as to say that "exploited youths" were being "manipulated" by outside forces. Brown refers to these outside agitators as the "armchair radical chic, Black and White, who are now making a case for rioting."

Brown adds, "The rioting did more for Reagan's political future than it did for the poor and hungry Black people who suffer from neglect. . . ."

In other words, "radicals" are manipulating Black youth to help keep Reagan in office!

This line of argument lets Reagan, the cops, the courts, the Democratic and Republican parties, and the Klan totally off the hook.

The counterdemonstration expressed a common feeling among Blacks and a growing layer of white workers that the Klan and the policies of the Reagan government are antiworker. As Rev. John Gibson, a civil rights leader, explained to those attending the anti-Klan rally, "We are here to make a statement, not just to the Klan — they're just the tip of the iceberg — but to all the racists. . . . We will fight you and we will win; here and all over the world."

Hooligans don't generally fight for justice and against racism. Even the *Washington Post*, not a friend of Blacks, and other workers, pointed to the powerful impact of the counterdemonstration. Dorothy Gilliam, a *Post* reporter, wrote: "The counter-protesters, many times the minuscule numbers of the Klan, sent a message of strong resolve: certain vulgarities, such as the appearance of the KKK, just won't be tolerated in the nation's capital. . . ."

"The sophistication of the masses was, in the end, a thing to behold. These were not bedraggled, straggling,

drugged-out potheads. It was a strong racial and cultural mix: Latinos, blacks, whites, and Palestinians."

Why are Tony Brown and Black Democratic officials so upset by this show of unity against the Klan?

It's simple. They oppose Black and other working people struggling outside the framework of what is acceptable. What is acceptable to them to oppose racism and economic and political injustice is backing the liberal Black (and white) leadership inside the Democratic and Republican parties — the parties that run the country and make sure we are second-class citizens.

There is manipulation in the Black community, but not the kind Brown's talking about.

The manipulation is consciously done by the capitalist rulers and those in our community who tell us the way to bring change is to dump Reagan's Republicans by registering and voting for Democrats. These misleaders favor protests only when they control them.

Hooliganism is a problem facing our community. It comes from cops who shoot down Black youth in Miami. It comes from the government, the bosses, and the courts. It comes from all those, including the Klan, who attempt to keep us as second-class citizens — in the worst schools and homes and in the lowest paying jobs.

These hooligans don't just steal bikes, but our people's lives.

The significance of such developments as the November 27 protest and the Miami rebellions along with the victorious strike of Canadian auto workers is they reflect the growing willingness of working people to stand up to the racist and antiworker policies of the government and the employers.

This new mood of militancy was best summarized by a garment worker after the D.C. anti-Klan demonstration: "November 27 has increased the confidence of many workers in what we can accomplish together."

LETTERS

Women in Kansas

Pioneer Women: Voices from the Kansas Frontier by Joanna Stratton is a book about early American women settlers.

The author's great-grandmother, Lilla Day Monroe, was one of the women pioneers of Kansas. In 1895, she became the first woman admitted to legal practice in that state. A leader of the fight to win ratification of women's right to vote, she founded a newspaper aimed at educating women, the *Kansas Woman's Journal*.

For the paper, Lilla solicited the memoirs of surviving Kansas pioneer women from all over the state. The task escalated into a full-time project, and by 1927 she had collected more than 600 contributions.

Stratton has put together a remarkable volume by interweaving the early history of Kansas (1854-1890) with excerpts from the memoirs. It is the story of pioneer life as seen by women.

In their own words, these homesteaders describe the hardships and challenges of the frontier: life in a sodhouse, country schools, the battles to establish Kansas as a free state on the eve of the civil war, the struggle to win women's suffrage.

In the "Foreword," Stratton explains that these are the words of white homesteading women. The collection does not include the experiences of Black and Native American women.

There is no way to compensate for this limitation. It reflects the

social conditions and prejudices of the times when these women lived and wrote their stories.

Nevertheless *Pioneer Women* is filled with heroines, and moving accounts of lonely courage and strength.

Louise Glover
Charleston, West Virginia

Needs the truth

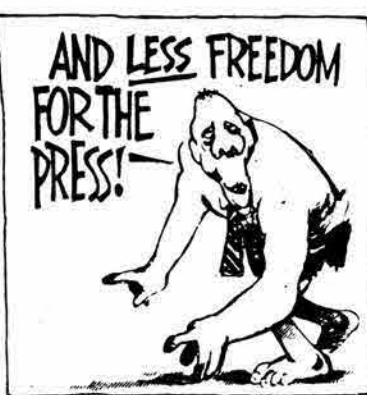
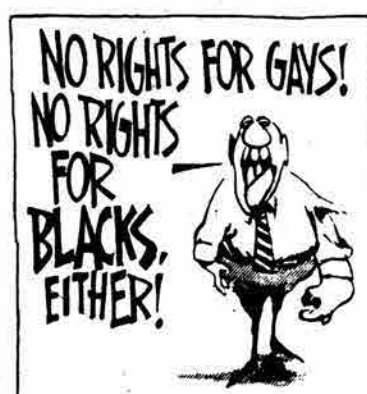
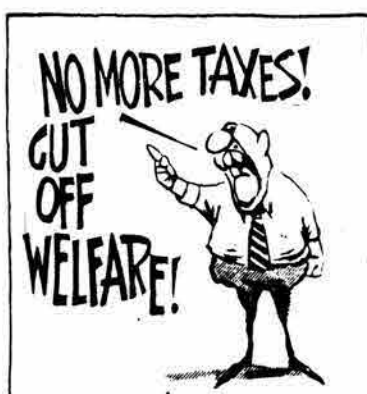
I am very much interested in receiving your newspaper as soon as possible. I met one of the Socialist Workers Party members here in York, Pennsylvania. I wish they had a branch of the Socialist Workers Party here in York. More people need to know the truth about how corrupt the capitalist society is.

Terry Smart
York, Pennsylvania

Antiwar Israeli tours

Lea Tsemel, a leading activist in defense of Palestinian rights within Israel as well as in the Israeli-occupied territories, recently made several appearances in Los Angeles. She was touring the United States at the invitation of the National Lawyers Guild, which had sent a team of members to investigate Israeli treatment of Palestinian prisoners.

As an attorney, she spends much time in legal defense work. She recounted in great detail the lengths to which the Israeli regime has gone in efforts to prevent the Palestinians from organizing and expressing opposition to the theft of Palestinian land and property by



the Zionist authorities.

Tsemel also reported on the growth of massive protest against actions of the Israeli government within Israel, in which she has actively participated. These mobilizations, in which hundreds of thousands have participated, have been the largest ever of their nature and scope to have occurred within Israel during the height of a military operation. They have had a big political effect on the population of Israel as well as propelling discussion and debate over

Israeli actions within the Jewish communities of the world.

Several of the activists present at one local meeting, including Palestinians, purchased copies of the *Militant's* recent issue featuring the SWP's views of the Middle East situation and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Walter Lippmann
Los Angeles, California

cause they couldn't get to work. Towing outfits are charging exorbitant rates to pull cars out of drifts. One woman paid \$187.50 for a ten-minute job. Sick and elderly persons are unable to reach medical facilities and grocery stores.

According to an article in the *Denver Post* at least some snow removal equipment was being used to plow private parking lots while streets remained impassable.

Military vehicles that could have opened the streets sat idle. Why? A story in the December 28 *Denver Post* explained that "the military can't compete with private industry, and local governments have the option of hiring private contractors to do the job." Get the message? There's a buck to be made here, and what could be more important than that?

Tom Vernier
Denver, Colorado

Profits take priority

The Blizzard of '82, a barrage of winter weather that hit the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains on December 24, was a natural disaster. But the scope of this disaster in Denver was magnified greatly by the policies of the capitalist city government and the priorities of the rich who control it.

Six days after a snowfall of 24 inches, many streets in the city were impassable to ordinary vehicles. Major thoroughfares are icy, rutted, and dangerous to travel on.

The Denver news media has treated the blizzard and its aftermath as a somewhat romantic inconvenience. For most working people the storm was anything but romantic. At least seven persons have died because of it. Thousands of workers lost wages be-

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

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Why Blacks rebelled in Miami

2 Black youths slain by police; feds, local officials defend cops

BY JACKIE FLOYD
AND STU SINGER

MIAMI — On the afternoon of December 28 two white Cuban cops entered a video game arcade in Overtown, a Black community next to downtown Miami. One of them, Luis Alvarez, pulled his gun and walked up behind 20-year-old Nevell Johnson, a county worker who was playing Pac-Man. Alvarez put the gun to Johnson's head and pulled the trigger. Nevell Johnson died in the hospital two days later.

Many people were in the arcade when the murder occurred. There was no warning. With Nevell Johnson lying on the floor in a pool of blood, Alvarez and his partner, Louis Cruz, ordered everyone out of the building saying someone had a gun. At least one person saw Alvarez plant the 22-caliber pistol the police claim Nevell Johnson was carrying.

The murder of Nevell Johnson was an act of war against the Black community. The community responded with a powerful three-day rebellion. Police cars were captured and burned. At least 10 businesses were attacked, their stock destroyed or liberated by the rebels.

During the rebellion the police took another life shooting 17-year-old Alonzo Singleton eight times, mostly in the back.

At least 44 Overtown residents were arrested, dozens beaten and injured. The community was surrounded by police, every street was blockaded.

The cops got to practice the military occupation tactics they've been working on since the Liberty City rebellion two years ago. The police cars sped up and down the streets with cops holding rifles and shotguns out the windows. Heavy barrages of tear gas were used to cover charges by cops wearing gas masks to rescue other cops who were trying to retrieve abandoned police cars. But the cops were retreating as much as they were charging.

Community rebels climbed up on the



Militant/Stu Singer

Burnt-out police cars in front of video arcade where Nevell Johnson was murdered by racist Miami cop

freeway overpasses that cut through Overtown and stopped traffic. Two interstate highways were blocked. They also blocked a railway line.

The rebellion was ended by the rebels who carried it out. They were not defeated. The young rebels of Overtown are laying back now, assessing what happened and what to do next.

The white rulers of this city and the Black politicians and heads of most community groups were badly shaken by the rebellion. They have no answers to offer the rebels.

The Black community of Liberty City is a little to the northwest of Overtown. Liberty City is not actually a city. It is in an area of Dade County which crosses the Miami city limits.

In both Liberty City and in Overtown, which is part of the city of Miami, there was a large-scale rebellion in 1980. As this time, it was in response to the police murder of a Black man. In 1980 Miami cops beat to death insurance salesman Arthur McDuffie. The entire police department participated in a cover-up of the case. The facts of the murder and the cover-up were

finally exposed. The five killers were tried. They were all acquitted. They are now back working as cops with their license-to-kill badges and loaded guns.

While there was no justice in the murder of Arthur McDuffie, the rebellion did bring some changes. Some money was spent in the Black community to improve streets and parks. A few jobs were created for Black cops, Black politicians, and the few people who were hired to act as a buffer for complaints.

But a lot more money was poured into
Continued on Page 15

UAW to speak at St. Louis abortion rights rally

BY SHEILA OSTROW

ST. LOUIS — The United Auto Workers (UAW) is joining with other supporters of abortion rights here to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

Harold O'Reilly, education director for UAW Region 5, will be one of the speakers on a broad panel titled, "Celebrate a Decade of Freedom," which will take place on Friday, January 21, 7:30 p.m., at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 6800 Washington, University City, Mo. The UAW is on record in support of a woman's right to choose abortion.

In addition to O'Reilly, the panel will include State Senator Harriett Woods; Sister Ginny Williams from the National Coalition of Catholic Nuns; Arlene Zarembka, an attorney; and a doctor who performs abortions.

The panel is being sponsored by the Freedom of Choice Council, which includes National Organization for Women (NOW); American Civil Liberties Union, Eastern Missouri; Missouri Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights; and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

In the decade since the Supreme Court legalized abortion, the government and its two parties — the Democrats and the Republicans — have been on a concerted drive to reverse this democratic right. Congress has cut off federal funding for abortions and the Supreme Court currently has several state and local antiabortion laws under review.

This official opposition to abortion has

emboldened right-wing antiabortion terrorists who have physically attacked abortion clinics and even kidnapped a doctor who operated such a clinic.

Supporters of women's rights in St. Louis have begun to feel that they must publicly respond to these attacks and educate people about the importance of the right to abortion.

The Freedom of Choice Council has started early in publicizing the event. There have been articles in the two daily newspapers here, 15,000 leaflets have been printed, and a large mailing has gone out. In addition there's been discussion on publicizing the event at different industrial plants in the area, in particular those organized by the UAW.

Two certificates of honor will be presented at the panel: to the Ladie's Center and to the Hope Clinic. These two clinics have been under attack from foes of abortion, and the directors of both clinics have refused to be intimidated by those reactionary forces.

Dr. Héctor Zevallos, who operates the Hope Clinic in nearby Granite City, Illinois, and his wife, were kidnapped August 12, 1982, by antiabortion terrorists. An organization calling itself the "Army of God" took responsibility for the kidnappings. They left a letter demanding that abortions be stopped and that President Reagan publicly denounce abortion. The president said nothing to condemn the kidnappings, though he frequently attacks abortion rights. Zevallos and his wife were released on August 20.

In November three men charged with the kidnappings were arrested. Dr. Zevallos then broke the silence he had observed since his release to explain what had happened. He revealed that the kidnappers had threatened to kill him and his wife if they did not close the clinic.

Zevallos said at a press conference, "The clinic is open and will continue to provide high-quality medical care for women."

"Anti-abortion people should take note that they cannot force clinics to close. My colleagues around the country and I will not abandon our belief in the right of a woman to choose safe abortions."

The Ladie's Clinic in University City has been the target of antiabortion forces for years. They have picketed the clinic; attempted to intimidate women going into the clinic; and threatened Ingrid Smith, executive director of the clinic.

In 1980, following more than 400 arrests by University City police for antiabortion demonstrations outside the clinic over a six month period, a permanent injunction was issued prohibiting 41 named opponents of abortion rights from demonstrating at the clinic.

On September 18, 1982, they broke the injunction by organizing a picket at the clinic with four of their members trespassing on clinic property. They attempted to stop people from going into the clinic.

The four were then found guilty of violating the 1980 injunction and were given jail sentences from 225 days to 314 days.

Judge Albert Stephan, Jr., of the Missouri Court of Appeals set bond and they were released. Their appeal is pending but they

were ordered to obey the 1980 injunction as a condition of bond.

* * *

There will be abortion rights activities on January 22 in many other cities as well.

In Boston a committee initiated by the Coalition for Reproductive Freedom is planning a protest rally on January 22 at the YWCA in Copley Square, from 1-4 p.m.

Speakers include Rhonda Copelon, the lawyer who argued the court challenge to the Hyde Amendment, which cut off federal funds for abortions, Cecelia McCarthy from the American Federation of Government Employees; and the president of Boston NOW.

Endorsers of the rally include Coalition of Labor Union Women; NOW; Wellesley College Women's Alliance; several abortion clinics; Socialist Workers Party; and Democratic Socialists of America.

Prior to the rally, some speakers will participate in a news conference to announce an abortion rights ad campaign, which will consist of placing placards on the Boston subway system explaining why women choose to have abortions and urging the public to defend that right.

In Washington, D.C., there will be a candlelight vigil on the steps of the Supreme Court building at 6 p.m. on January 22. Sonia Johnson, prominent Equal Rights Amendment activist, is the featured speaker and the event is being sponsored by several NOW chapters. To get information on buses from New Jersey, call (201) 276-6247.